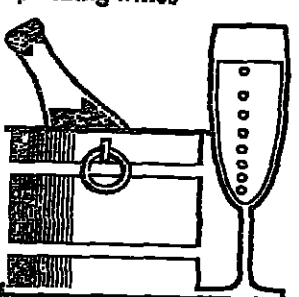


THE TIMES Tomorrow

But...
Generations of Englishmen have delighted in the mysteries of cricket. John Parker delights in the craftsmanship of the bat... and ball.
... and ball
Previews of all the FA Cup semi-finals
Sparkling...
Enjoy the best of the sparkling wines



... windows
Roy Strong on the dying art of the window dresser

Livingstone says Queen backs GLC

Mr Kenneth Livingstone, Labour leader of the Greater London Council, claimed the Queen opposed the abolition of the authority. He said her agreement to perform the official opening of the Thames flood barrier seemed to prove his point.

Shuttle's crew celebrate

The five-man crew of the Challenger space shuttle celebrated their success in retrieving, repairing and re-installing a satellite in orbit, and prepared to return to Earth.

Dock strike fear

Employers were told by union leaders that any attempt to abolish the dock labour scheme would prompt a national strike.

Lebanon delay

President Assad of Syria and President Gemayel of Lebanon postponed their meeting as pressure grew for Syrian military intervention in Beirut to stamp out the civil war.

Bomb kills two

A mother of eight children and a policeman died when a "loyalist" bomb exploded outside a house in Belfast.

Output falls

The output of British industry fell sharply and unexpectedly in February, but the underlying trend indicates continued moderate industrial recovery.

Rape law change

An extension of the rape law to cover husbands and wives living apart is urged by the Criminal Law Revision Committee's report on sexual offences.

Hart's helper

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, will join Senator Gary Hart for two days next week as the campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination in Texas, North Carolina and Tennessee.

Missile deal

The Government has awarded a £130m contract for surface-to-surface navy missiles to the United States company, McDonnell Douglas.

Midland blow

Midland Bank's US subsidiary, Crocker National, has reported a \$121m (£84m) first-quarter loss, which follows a \$57m loss in the fourth quarter last year.

Leader page 13

Letters: On superpower struggle, from Mr J W Wolonicki, and others; infrastructure spending, from Mr D Howell, MP, Nottingham Evening Post, from Mr C G Pole-Carew, and Mr D Dumbleby.
Leading articles: Tory revolt; Oman contract: Short, sharp sentences.
Features, pages 10-12: Israel. Washington's one-way ally: Bernard Levin on the Gospel according to Jeremy Isaacs; Nixon's attempted comeback: Spectrum; a diagnosis of Anthony Clare, psychiatrist and broadcaster. Friday Page: children of broken homes.
Obituary, page 14: Dr Cyril Smalley. Mr Squire Yarrow.

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Miners expected to change the rules to get all-out strike

From Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, Sheffield

The coal industry is sliding rapidly towards an all-out strike after a crushing defeat yesterday after moves by moderate leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers to call a national pithead ballot.

A special 240-delegate conference of the union is to be held next Thursday to determine the next step, and it is almost certain that union rules will be changed to reduce the 55 per cent majority required for an all-out stoppage when the miners are given the chance to vote.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the union's president, yesterday ruled out of order a proposal from the Leicestershire miners that there should be an immediate pithead poll, and his ruling was upheld by a surprisingly strong margin of 13 votes to 8 by the union's executive, meeting at its headquarters here.

Despite the outcome of the vote, moderate leaders were attacked by militant pitmen as they emerged from the meeting. The decision to transfer the initiative for prolonging and extending the strike, which has closed two thirds of Britain's pits, to the delegate conference was approved by 21 votes to three.

The voices raised against it came from Mr Ken Toon, of South Derbyshire, Mr Roy Otley, of the Midlands craftsman and Mr Jack Jones, of Leicestershire.

Mr Jones had proposed that there should be an early ballot.

but his suggestion was ruled unconstitutional by Mr Scargill who, citing an earlier precedent of Mr Joe Gurney, refused to permit the executive to overturn a decision it made on March 8 to back the "rolling strike".

The National Coal Board declined to comment on the miners' decision.

The union meeting, which took place against a background of unprecedented picketing and

Alan Hamilton Back page

police security to get miners' leaders into their office, resulted in a virtually clean sweep for the left.

Mr Scargill told the pickets: "We can win provided we show the same resolution as we showed in 1972 and 1974." He was greeted with great applause and chants of "easy, easy" from the striking miners.

The delegate conference next week will have before it a proposal from the national officials of the union that the rules should be changed to reduce the majority required in a secret ballot from 55 per cent to a simple majority.

A motion on these lines was due to be submitted to the union's annual conference in Tenby in July, but the 54 per cent vote by colliery deputies to back a strike over pit closures - which falls short of their own union's requirements of a 66 per cent majority to permit strike action - has prompted the mineworkers to think again.

The NUM last change its rules on this issue in 1971, when the majority for strike action was reduced from 66 per cent to 55 per cent, and later that year a pithead ballot yielded a 59 per cent majority for industrial action which led directly to the convulsive events of 1972.

Mr Scargill said yesterday that the latest move was designed to introduce greater democracy into the union.

He told the men massed outside his building: "Let us say to the wider trade union movement that whatever happens, the determination of the National Union of Mineworkers is more resolved. We intend to continue this fight until MacGregor and Thatcher withdraw their pit closures."

Moderate coalfield leaders who only 24 hours before had been predicting a marginal victory for their campaign to hold an immediate ballot were downcast by yesterday's sharp swerve to the left.

Mr Trevor Bell, secretary of the white-collar section, claimed that a majority of the executive had been in favour of a ballot but had been unable to pursue it because of Mr Scargill's ruling.

But Mr Scargill had employed rule 43 to argue that the March 8 decision could not be overturned by demands for a national ballot.

This rule lays down that in the event of any national action being proposed by the union there shall be a secret pithead ballot of the men requiring a 55 per cent majority before such action is mounted.

Ministers resigned to decision

By Julian Haviland Political Editor

The miners' decision yesterday to hold a delegate conference was expected by ministers, who received it with resignation. In the Commons the Prime Minister said that many miners would be greatly concerned that a national vote on strike action had been further delayed.

Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, welcomed the fact that a national ballot was now "a much clearer and closer prospect".

Mr Kinnock's preference for a ballot was therefore made plain, but not plain enough for Mrs Thatcher. Mr Kinnock does not believe that the miners will be more likely to show restraint if he lectures them. Mrs Thatcher misses few opportunities of lecturing them and of inviting Mr Kinnock to do the same. So she asked if he would make it clear that he would have preferred an immediate decision in favour of a ballot.

Mr Kinnock did not respond, but asked instead for the Government to tell Mr Ian McGregor, chairman of the National Coal Board, to alter the pace and scale of the rundown of the coal industry. The Prime Minister replied that there had been no compulsory redundancies so far.

Parliament, page 4

Moderate leaders manhandled

From Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter, Sheffield

Moderate miners' leaders were attacked by militant pitmen as they emerged from yesterday's meeting of the National Union of Mineworkers executive.

Drink cans and fruit rained down on Mr Ray Chadburn, president of the right-wing Nottinghamshire miners. He was pushed and jostled and had to be escorted by the police.

After a day of mass demonstrations, Mr Chadburn, Mr Henry Richardson, secretary of the Nottinghamshire area, and Mr Trevor Bell, secretary of the union's white collar section, all received rough treatment from the hundred or so left-wing miners who stayed after more than 3,000 demonstrators dispersed.

They had arrived early yesterday from surrounding Yorkshire and from Scotland, Kent and South Wales. The mood of the crowd, which gathered in the sunshine to lobby the executive, varied from that of a miners' gala to an unruly football crowd. It might have been worse if the vote had gone against the militants.

There were 53 arrests largely for assault, some for drunkenness, made by 1500 policemen from forces from Northumbria to Bedfordshire. More were in reserve, including those billeted at army camps in Nottinghamshire.

A shaken Mr Chadburn said

he was not worried by the decision against a ballot. "I am worried about what just happened. I know how they feel, but I just want to get away."

Earlier a dozen pickets entered the headquarters, took a lift to the eighth floor and confronted Mr Chadburn. They jostled him and accused him of selling them out. He argued forcibly that he had told his members not to cross picket lines.

Mr Scargill announced the decision of the executive with the help of a megaphone on the steps of the building.

Earlier he addressed the crowd from an office window high above the demonstration. He declared: "This is yet another example of police state, 1984." At various times NUM officials addressed the crowd from windows, advising them on the disposition of police.

Mr Chadburn said later that it was time his members "got off their knees and came out". The strike over pit closures was not just a fight on behalf of Scotland, South Wales and Yorkshire, but was also in the interests of Nottinghamshire miners.

A lead-filled bottle cap with four screws sticking out was thrown at a police line, but fell short (the Press Association reports). A police spokesman said it was "purpose made to maim".

Government shrugs off MPs' revolt over GLC

If the Government had any misgivings over its Local Government (Interim Provisions) Bill after the rebellion in Conservative ranks on Wednesday night, they were well concealed yesterday (Our Political Editor writes).

Ministers pointed with some smugness to the size of their majority, 93, for the Bill's second reading. It was only two-thirds of their nominal overall majority, but comfortable.

Nineteen Conservative MPs voted with Labour to deny a second reading to the Bill, which will suspend the elections due next year to the Greater

Radical changes proposed for Stock Exchange

By William Kay

Stockbrokers and stockjobbers will disappear in their present form under radical proposals put forward yesterday by the Council of the Stock Exchange in London.

The principle of keeping brokers and jobbers strictly separate will be replaced by a stock market structure under which everyone will be known as "broker-dealers".

The other change is that outsiders will be allowed to own Stock Exchange firms outright. At present the limit is 29.9 per cent.

End of era, page 17

TCCB clears England cricketers of drugs abuse

By John Woodcock Cricket Correspondent

The Test and County Cricket Board at Lord's yesterday cleared the England team that went to New Zealand and Pakistan in the winter of charges that they had used drugs illegally. In a statement issued by the executive committee of the TCCB, it was said that their investigations had not substantiated any of the "serious allegations" made.

Rumours that the England cricketers had smoked drugs in New Zealand earlier this year and on previous tours came to a head last month when *The Mail On Sunday*, in a three-page story, mentioned names of

players allegedly concerned. This article has since become the subject of a writ, issued by Ian Botham against the newspaper. Botham is due to appear at Lord's today, before the disciplinary committee of the TCCB, although that is to account for statements he made, after returning home early from Pakistan, about the conditions.

In a series of interviews, CH Palmer, the chairman of the TCCB, DB Carr, the secretary, DJ Insole, the chairman of the Cricket Committee, and P B H. May, the chairman of the England selectors, met, among others, Alan Smith, the man-



Botham: at Lord's today

ager of the touring side, his assistant, Norman Gifford, and a journalist who travelled with the party. While retaining the right to renew their investi-

gation should any new evidence come to light, the Board stated that they had met with no evidence which suggested that the team's behaviour after playing hours had affected their performance.

The *Mail on Sunday* quoted a strongly worded criticism by a "senior New Zealand cricket official" of the habits of the England players. The TCCB, however, have satisfied themselves, after their own discussions with the cricket authorities in New Zealand, that this was unfounded, asserting instead that the team in general created a good impression with their hosts.

The TCCB deplore the use of

drugs and will make "a concerted effort" to ensure that such a practice is kept out of the domestic English game.

Mr Stewart Steven, the editor of the *Mail on Sunday*, said last night: "I am interested to learn that the Test and County Cricket Board executive committee has stated that it has carried out wide-ranging investigations into the allegations concerning the illegal use of drugs" (the Press Association reports).

"The executive committee has failed to even so much as interview a single *Mail on Sunday* journalist involved in this lengthy inquiry



Labour publishes Oman case

By Richard Dowden

Labour MPs have finally succeeded in having published with parliamentary privilege allegations about the involvement of Mrs Margaret Thatcher and her son in obtaining the contract to build the University of Oman for Cementation International.

The allegations are that "the Prime Minister was consciously and deliberately advancing her son's interests" and that "at a formal banquet at the palace on April 23 (in Oman 1981) the Prime Minister mentioned her son's interest in Cementation to the Sultan".

In a complaint to the Select Committee on Members' Interests, Mr Brian Sedgemore, Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, said the contract was never put out to tender, and that if it had been, other British construction companies would have taken an interest.

He also said Mrs Thatcher had a direct interest through her husband Denis, who was a guarantor to the bank account which Mr Mark Thatcher used for his payments from Cementation.

The complaint is in a "draft report", in effect a minority report by Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, Labour MP for Worthington, who is a member of the committee.

The committee rejected Mr Campbell-Savours' complaint, saying the interests in the £30m contract were not Mrs Thatcher's but those of her son and husband. She was not therefore obliged to register those interests and the committee did not have to investigate them. Of the analogy with the Maudling case, which Mr Campbell-Savours quoted, the committee said it did not apply because "Mr Maudling had a direct interest in that he was a director of certain of Mr Poulson's companies".

Mr Campbell-Savours' report also mentions Mr Denis Thatcher's interest as chairman of Chipman, one of the companies on the "bid list" circulated in Oman. Chipman had an interest in a £3m landscaping contract which Cementation offered for tender.

Asked at a press conference if this was the end of the matter, Mr Campbell-Savours said: "This is only the beginning. If the Prime Minister had been more forthcoming at the despatch box six or eight weeks ago it would have died a death."

But she has whet the appetites of journalists in this country and abroad who are investigating her son's activities in relation to her function as Prime Minister.

He said the matter could be raised in her parliamentary select committees but as he has such difficulty in making headway in the members' interests committee the Conservatives, who have an inbuilt

Continued on page 2, col 1

British curb on Gulf war chemicals

By Rodney Cowton Defence Correspondent

Britain has imposed severe restrictions on the export to Iran and Iraq of eight chemicals which could be used for the manufacture of chemical weapons. This follows the report of a United Nations inspection team on March 26 which confirmed that chemical weapons had been used in the Iran-Iraq war.

Mr Paul Channon, Minister for Trade, announced in a written answer in the Commons that from yesterday the chemicals would require a licence before they could be exported to either country. This would only be granted where the Government was satisfied that they would be used only for valid industrial purposes.

A spokesman for the Department of Trade and Industry said there had been no exports of any of these chemicals from Britain to Iran or Iraq during last year. He had not heard any suggestion that British materials had been used in the manufacture of chemical weapons.

Of the eight chemicals on the British list which are mainly used for the manufacture of insecticides and flame retardants, five also are being subjected to restriction by the United States.

Pirate radio could soon become legal

By David Hewson

The growing wave of pirate radio stations throughout Britain will be given the chance to become legal in a redistribution of radio frequencies due to be announced later this year.

The Home Office is expected to allocate part of the VHF band for the use of "community radio" stations using low-powered transmitters and run principally on a voluntary basis, like many of the existing pirates.

Although none of the present wave of up to 60 illegal stations will be guaranteed a licence in the exercise, the introduction of legal, low power "pirish pump" radio is expected to be matched by a crackdown on stations staying outside the law.

The pirates have rarely been prosecuted, but the Independent Broadcasting Authority says the unchecked spread of pirate stations threatens the financial stability of the legal independent local radio.

Several pirate operators have said they would like to apply for radio franchises, but could not afford to run companies of the size required for consideration under the present network.

Mr Peter Rivers, co-ordinator of Radio Jackie, a pirate station broadcast in London for the last 15 years, said last night the station would be interested in applying for one of the new licences.

Megaphone message: NUM President Arthur Scargill (top) addresses a mass demonstration of militant miners outside the union HQ in Sheffield with the Scottish leader, Mick McGahey, by his side. Below: Two policemen lead away one of the 3,000 protesters.

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TT/13/84

Sex offence reforms may extend rape law to couples living apart

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

An extension of the law of rape to cover husbands and wives living apart, and a new maximum penalty of life imprisonment for attempted rape, instead of the present seven years, are among radical reforms of the law on sexual offences urged by the Criminal Law Revision Committee published yesterday.

The Government is expected to implement the proposals which deal with offences such as rape, indecent assault, buggery and incest.

The report also urges a new 10-year maximum penalty for indecent assault against both sexes and the abolition of buggery as an offence between men and women where there is consent.

The right to anonymity in court for a man accused of rape should be abolished, the committee said, and the presumption that no boy aged under 14 is capable of sexual intercourse and rape should be scrapped.

The report, the product of eight years' work by the 17-

member committee of senior judges and lawyers under the chairmanship of Lord Justice Lawton, comes after its own working paper in 1980 and that of the Policy Advisory Committee on Sexual Offences in 1981.

The most significant change since the working paper is the new maximum penalty for indecent assault, increased from five to 10 years.

Lord Justice Lawton said yesterday: "Members of the public clearly took the view that some of the indecent assaults are terribly serious, some even worse than rape, so clearly something had to be done."

Under present law, there is a 10-year maximum penalty for indecent assault against a man, but only of two years against a woman.

Now, buggery is an offence except between two consenting males aged over 21, punishable with up to life imprisonment with or without a fine.

The committee proposes abolishing the offence between a man and a consenting woman aged over 16. But it should remain an offence punishable with life imprisonment with a non-consenting adult, or child aged under 13. The penalty with a girl under 16 is five years.

Despite a strong lobby from women's groups and the majority view of the policy advisory committee, the criminal law committee rejected extending rape law to marriage except where the couple is living apart.

Incest, at present an offence at all ages, should be permitted between brother and sister aged over 21, but would remain an offence between parent, children, and grandchildren.

Lord Justice Lawton said that the proposal would cover the rare cases where a brother and sister were divided at infancy, met later in life and fell in love. It was not in the public interest to bring such cases to court, he said.

But the committee urges incest to be extended to cover adoptive as well as blood relationships and a separate offence of unlawful sexual intercourse with a stepchild aged under 21.

It also recommends a new offence to cover heterosexual and homosexual acts in public, which would include clubs and places of common resort, as well as places seen from a public place. There should be a specific new offence for homosexual acts in public lavatories, it says.

Sexual offences: 15th report of the Criminal Law Revision Committee Cmd 9213 (Stationery Office £6.40).

Children are honoured for bravery

Two children received special awards from Princess Alexandra yesterday as a reward for their courage.

Samantha Lewis, aged nine, from Tolworth, Surrey, rescued her brother James, aged three, from drowning in a French lake last summer.

Samantha (seen above with her brother) swam out to James after he got into difficulties and hauled him towards the shore. "It was nothing really", she told the Princess at the award ceremony in London.

Samantha was joint winner in the youngest age group of the Britannia Young Citizens' Award in memory of Ross McWhirter, to promote good citizenship.

Barry Tippet, co-winner, aged 11, from Polperro, Cornwall, tackled a kitchen fire and led his mother to safety.

He beat out the flames with a jacket and soaked a towel with water to wrap round his mother's badly burned wrists.

He is seen (right) talking to Mr Angus Ogilvy, one of the judges of the awards. (Photographs: Harry Kerr).

Warning on aspirins by public analyst

By Robin Young

Local authorities lack powers to protect the public from deteriorated drugs and worthless health products, the Association of Public Analysts claims in its annual report published today.

"The control of medicinal products at retail outlets is still virtually non-existent", the report says.

Mr Peter Martin, public analyst for Berkshire and Oxfordshire, told the association's annual meeting in Norwich that a survey in his counties suggested that nearly 30 tons of substandard aspirins, likely to cause internal bleeding, are waiting to be sold from Britain's non-pharmacy outlets.

He said: "In our survey 8 per cent of the samples had become unstable and contained an excess of salicylic acid over the amount permitted by the British Pharmacopoeia."

The analysts also fear that health foods are inadequately controlled.

Carcinogenic mycotoxins have been discovered in nuts and fruit juices, the report says, but although there are statutory regulations against their presence in animal feeds, there are still no legal limits for food sold for human consumption.

The report says: "So-called health foods are often deficient in protein or caloric value, or bear exaggerated claims on the labels."

Wine box sales rise

Wine boxes could account for a quarter of all the wine sold in Britain within three years, a leading supplier said yesterday. Since their launch in 1981, wine boxes have taken more than 10 per cent of the UK market and the Budget, which cut 77p of a three-litre box, is expected to boost sales Mr Steve Duncan, of Colman's of Norwich, said.

Embryo research defended

From Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent Cambridge

Scientists had a moral obligation to use "spare" human embryos for research and it would be immoral not to investigate them and keep them in storage, Mr Patrick Steptoe, one of the pioneers of test-tube baby techniques, said yesterday.

Mr Steptoe, who with his colleague Dr Robert Edwards has supervised the birth of 202 test-tube babies since 1978, said: "We treat these embryos with great care and respect and there is an enormous responsibility on us concerning their storage either for later implantation for scientific research."

Mr Steptoe was speaking after addressing the British Medical Association's annual scientific meeting in Cambridge. He confirmed that he and his colleagues at Bourn Hall Clinic could deep freeze human embryos in a technique that had already led to the birth of a baby from such an embryo.

Sellafield villagers offered body scans

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

People living near the Sellafield (formerly Winscale) nuclear waste plant in Cumbria will be able to have their bodies scanned for radioactivity from next Tuesday.

A mobile whole body monitor, similar to the earlier mobile mass X-ray screening units, has been installed in a trailer so that any member of the public wanting a check-up can be screened in about 20 minutes.

Individuals will be given a certificate showing how much radioactive material of natural origin is in their body and how much from artificial sources, such as nuclear fall-out and waste.

The screening programme will be carried out by the National Radiological Protection Board and its findings will be made available, without the disclosure of identities, to Sir Douglas Black, the former president of the Royal College of Physicians.

He is investigating allegations that villagers near Sellafield have a higher than normal incidence of cancers, particularly leukaemia in children, because of the presence of radioactive

contamination from Sellafield.

Mr John Dunster, director of the protection board, said yesterday: "Although most of the radioactive materials measured are likely to be of natural origin, the measurements will indicate whether people living in Seascale have a higher level of body radioactivity which could be the result of the operations at the Sellafield works."

More important, he said, it could show if there was some route by which radioactive materials from waste entered the body which had not been recognized by doctors and scientists monitoring land, water, air, milk and plants in the areas.

Contaminated beaches near Sellafield are not expected to be open for Easter, despite a huge cleaning operation (the Press Association report). People have been advised to stay away from 15 miles of beaches since last November.

Mr William Waldegrave, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, is to visit the beaches and tour the plant today.

House valuers report 11% price rise

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

An optimistic view of the housing market for the next few months emerges from the latest Financial Weekly Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers survey, published today.

The survey shows an increase of 11 per cent in average prices during the past 12 months, and of 2.5 per cent in the first three months of this year.

Both figures are higher than those published earlier this week by the Halifax Building Society, whose new and comprehensive index showed respective increases of 7.3 per cent and 0.5 per cent.

The survey was done a week after the Budget and shortly after the mortgage rate reduction and stamp duty

changes. With few exceptions the valuers responding to the survey were sure the recovery would continue and accelerate during the spring and early summer, provided there was no big reduction in investments in building societies and provided the economic recovery is sustained.

The survey reports a nationwide increase in demand for properties suited to first-time buyers. The trend is likely to be emphasized in coming months by the raising of the stamp duty threshold to £30,000, which has removed a tax burden for many first-time buyers.

However, there appears to be poor demand for modern executive-style four-bedroom

properties. The survey admits it is unclear whether the boom in the first-time buyers' market ultimately works through the system to increase demand for dearer properties.

This is because demand for this type of house may continue to be depressed in areas where potential purchasers are unwilling to take on large mortgages while security of employment is in doubt.

The survey says: "If this situation continues, then some areas of the country experience shortages at the bottom end of the market with prices moving up sharply due to increases in demand, with prices continuing to stagnate at the top end of the market."

Resistance memories

Mrs Odette Hallows (far left), who won the George Cross for her work in the Resistance in France, and Lady Airey, widow of Airey Neave who was involved with Resistance as an evasion expert, at the Imperial War Museum yesterday. They drank wine brought in a canister originally containing supplies parachuted into occupied France. (Photograph: John Manning).

Programme makers want satellite deal

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

Britain's independent television programme makers are making a last-minute effort to win a stake in the direct broadcast deal being struck by the Government, the BBC and the ITV companies' group was formed by the creation of Channel 4, which accounts for most of their £50m worth of programme finance. They fear that the BBC-ITV satellite partnership will force many independent producers out of business by increasing their production costs to match those of ITV.

The producers pay staff union rates based on an independent agreement but do not add the 20 to 40 per cent local increases negotiated in most ITV companies.

That means the cost of independent programmes is about two-thirds of that of the

same production mounted in-house by ITV or the BBC.

The ITV companies expect this year's advertising revenue to reach a record of £1 billion.

The independents fear that that will continue to inflate ITV's already high pay scales, and quote a Thames Television executive who revealed that the average salary of all staff within the company, from doorman to director, is £17,000.

Mr Martin Tempia, administrator of the Independent Programme Producers' Association, said yesterday: "The ITV set-up is Fleet Street writ large, with the unions being bought off at the same time as investors receive huge dividends. With revenue of £950m to £1 billion a year they are in a position to buy their way out of trouble."

The association has suggested that the Government gives 4 per cent of the output on the

satellite to independent producers.

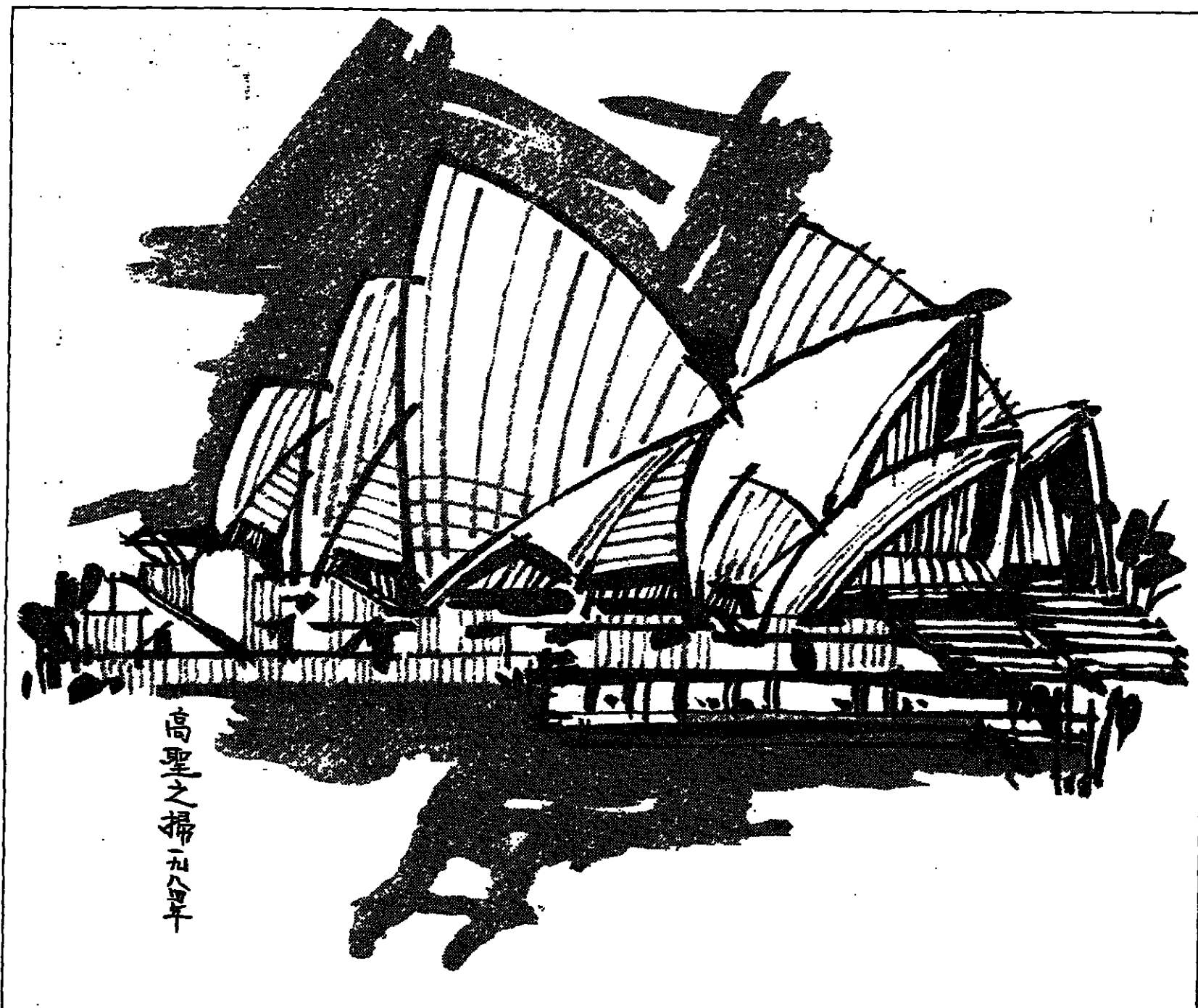
However, Mr Jeremy Wallington, chief executive of the independent London studios, Limehouse, said the independent sector might also be able to secure backers for a direct stake in the scheme.

He said that if ITV companies get their franchises extended as part of the deal, it will deprive many people in the independent sector of the chance to compete for ITV licences until the mid-1990s.

TV-am's new man

Mr Michael Moore, aged 35, advertisement director at News Group Newspapers, which owns The Sun and News of the World, joins TV-am as general manager at the end of this month (the Press Association reports).

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PARLIAMENT April 12 1984

Navy to get American Harpoon missiles

DEFENCE

The Government has decided to buy the McDonnell Douglas Harpoon surface-to-surface guided missile for Royal Navy frigates, Mr Geoffrey Fitts, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, announced in a statement to the Commons. McDonnell Douglas, he added, had undertaken to provide off-set work for British industry 100 per cent of the value of the contract of 130 per cent of the cost of the Harpoon order.

He also announced that the Government had placed a firm contract with British Aerospace for the full development and initial production of the vertically launched version of the Sea Wolf surface-to-air missile for the Navy.

Mr Fitts said: For some months we have been conducting a competition for a second generation surface-to-surface guided weapon for the four batch III type 23 frigates and the first eight type 23 frigates. The contenders were British Aerospace's Sea Eagle, McDonnell Douglas's ship launched Harpoon, Aerospace's Sea Wolf, and versions of Otomat from Otis Melara and Nava. The thorough-going evaluation of these contenders has taken into account performance, cost and timescale considerations, as well as industrial and employment factors.

The competition has been keen and of considerable benefit in assuring value for money. Following the submission of "best and final" offers from the competing contractors the outcome is clear. Having taken all relevant factors into account, the Government has concluded that the best choice on both operational and cost grounds is the McDonnell Douglas Harpoon: a proven system, which has had 100 per cent success rate in more than 200 firings since 1978, and variants of which are already in service with the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

Subject to agreement with the company on contractual terms and conditions, we will place a fixed price contract worth £130m for Harpoon missiles and associated ship systems for the batch III type 23 and the type 23 frigates. The total value is of the order of £200m.

I recognize that there will be disappointment that we have decided not to buy British for this item of Royal Navy equipment. However, the Government's position with regard to the high technology involved in advanced missiles has been preserved by our earlier decision to purchase ALARM and air launched Sea Eagle from British Aerospace. I take this opportunity of reaffirming the Ministry of Defence's commitment to air launched Sea Eagle and also of reminding the House that 95 in the MOD's procurement sound is spent in this country.

The employment implications of the various options have been an important consideration in our decision. I am pleased to be able to tell the House that McDonnell Douglas have undertaken to provide off-set work for British industry to the value of 130 per cent of the cost of the Harpoon order, of which half will be in areas of high technology and 30 per cent on the Harpoon programme itself.

McDonnell Douglas' track record on off-set is excellent and their undertaking will be incorporated in the contract. Over the past seven years they have placed well over £300m worth of contracts in the United Kingdom at all levels of

industry and on sub-Harpoon their off-set eventually totalled one-and-a-half times the purchase price.

Another important consideration was the need to reduce, as far as uncertainties caused by future exchange rate fluctuations.

In this respect we have achieved an agreement with McDonnell Douglas that 30 per cent of the value of the contract will be payable in sterling.

The Government are convinced that this decision is right for the Royal Navy and right for the taxpayer, and is also entirely satisfactory in employment terms for British industry.

In addition, I am also glad to be able to inform the House that today we have authorised the placing of a firm contract with British Aerospace for the full development and initial production of the vertically launched version of the Sea Wolf surface-to-air missile for the Royal Navy's type 23 frigates.

This important programme will ensure that Sea Wolf keeps its substantial lead over all its international competitors, and will guarantee that the type 23 frigates have the most modern versatile and devastating point defence missile system available.

This is a programme of major importance for the Royal Navy and British industry. The initial order alone is worth some £250m. Taken alongside the substantial order for the third main production order for conventionally launched Sea Wolf, this order will sustain the momentum of the programme and - not least - will sustain job opportunities at British Aerospace and their sub-contractors.

The Royal Navy has today acquired two highly effective modern systems which will greatly enhance operational effectiveness.

Mr Kevin McNamara, an opposition spokesman on defence (Hull North, Lab): The statement is the second major blow which British Aerospace has had in the past few weeks. The

basic jet trainer is to go to a foreign competitor and the Sea Eagle decision has been sacrificed to American competitors against all the criteria laid down by the Minister of State when writing about these matters. He said that in discussing orders we should discuss the possible deterioration of the value of the pound, national consumption and infrastructure and problems of the break-up of British design teams and our international lead.

Roughly £40m to £42m of the Harpoon order will be at a fixed price. What about the rest? Will the other 70 per cent be subject to the fluctuations of the market and more particularly, in view of recent history, will it be more expensive for us?

Mr Patrick Duffy (Sheffield, Attercliffe, Lab): His opposite number in Washington would not have the faintest idea of the past the House Appropriations Committee.

Mr Fitts: I am fully aware of the protectionist tendencies in the United States, and that they thought they saw those tendencies here when we adopted the Alarms system.

Mr David Young (Bolton South East, Lab): My constituents will see Mr Fitts's statement as a sell-out by this Government to American interests.

Mr Fitts: I totally repudiate what Mr Young has said about a sell-out. It is the most effective use of the

bill to protect Scottish ratepayers

the Belgrano: PM not vague over Haig

slight fall in crime last year

law and order

right to buy another dwelling

housing

sunday trading laws in tatters

parliament today

plaid fights poll on pits issue

council chamber gun siege man jailed

£27m sales boost for whispering jet

by Michael Bailly, Transport Editor

States, deregulation has brought a demand for frequent services which means smaller aircraft, and the environment lobby, which has grown enormously in strength, favours the ultra-quiet engines of the 146.

At the same time, third world air routes are developing to the densities that makes its 100-seat configuration and £10m cost a viable proposition.

After a fruitless search for sales in the late 1970s, during which the future of the entire project, and many of the 4,400 at Hatfield, were thrown into doubt, orders have poured in.

They stand at more than 70 now and BAe are confident of beating by a big margin the target of 250 sales needed to break even in the 1980s and 1990s.

Short Brothers, the Belfast planemakers, have won another multimillion pound order from the United States, the company announced yesterday (the Press Association reports).

It has signed a deal worth £25m to supply eight of its "360" commuter airliners to Wright Airlines of Cleveland, Ohio.

A British Airways official said later that Lord King and

the Princess had known each other for some time. Lord King had often hunted with the Princess of Wales.

The Princess toured the airport in a coach which, under air traffic controllers' guidance, travelled along one of Heathrow's two main runways, sandwiched between two aircraft landings.

A BA spokesman said: "She was fitted into the pattern of

traffic as if the coach was an aircraft. The only thing missing was that the coach was not given a code name."

The airport security vehicle leading the coach was in radio contact with the airport control tower throughout the 15-minute journey. Mr Bill Oates, the senior airport operations manager, sitting near the Princess, also had a radio tuned to air traffic control frequency

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NUM ballot a closer prospect - Kinnock

COAL DISPUTE

Many, many miners would be greatly concerned that the chance of a national ballot had been delayed still further by the NUM executive meeting in Sheffield, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, stated in the Commons.

During questions on the miners' dispute, she condemned the attempt to injure police horses on picket lines with nails stuck in pieces of wood as "disgraceful and callous".

She resisted demands from Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, to instruct Mr MacGregor, coal board chairman, to alter the scale of changes in the mining industry in order to save its future.

Mr Gerard Howarth (Canmore and Burnmouth, C) began the exchanges when he said miners in his constituency would be extremely disappointed by the NUM decision not to hold an immediate national ballot.

The proposal to alter the rule book will be seen by many (he went on) as a simple attempt to force out on strike men who in the case of my constituency, have voted three to one to carry on working and supporting their families.

Mrs Thatcher: Many, many miners will be greatly concerned that the chance of a national ballot has been delayed still further.

Mr Kinnock: Will she join with me in welcoming the fact that a national ballot of the NUM is now a closer and closer prospect that it was before today's decision? (Conservative cheers)

It is a much clearer and closer prospect than ballots for the election of a council to run London in the next four years.

Would she understand the real issues of the coal mining dispute? She has clearly instructed Mr MacGregor to run down the coal mining industry in substantial part regardless of the cost.

Does not she understand the price of that strategy for the industry, for the communities dependent on the industry and for the country generally, are immense? Will she therefore change that strategy and instruct Mr MacGregor to do the appropriate thing?

Mrs Thatcher: I assume if he welcomes the fact that a national ballot is clearer and closer - and that is his phrase - that he would have preferred it to have been decided today. Perhaps he would make that clear.

The Plan for Coal is as it has always been. In the 11 years of Labour Government some 300 mines were closed; in nine years of Conservative Government 92 have been closed.

Mr Kinnock: In giving instructions on ballots, she is rather in the position of someone in a glasshouse throwing stones. As for comparison with the rundown, throughout the lifetime of the Labour Government there were some jobs for redundant miners to go to. Now there are no jobs to go to.

If she is concerned about cost, she should realise the cost of replacing four million tonnes of coal is likely to be the purchase of Australian coal. As the result of the saving of £120m the resulting redundancies would cost £160m a year apart from redundancy pay-

ments of £300m over the next couple of years.

Mrs Thatcher: There have been no compulsory redundancies so far. (Labour shouts of "So far"). The redundancy money offered under this Government is far more generous than that offered under any Labour Government.

Investment in the future of the coal mining industry under this Government is far better than under any Labour Government. Coal mines have a better future under Conservatives than they ever had under Labour. (Conservative cheers)

Mr Kinnock: The investment which she is supposed to be sponsoring, of which she is proud, and which is welcome, relates to production in the 1990s on a few specific limited sites. The problem is here now.

Will she instruct Mr MacGregor to alter the pace, scale and method of changes to the coal mining industry to ensure its future and save the miners' jobs?

Mrs Thatcher: We are ensuring the future. When did the Labour Government put £800m a year investment into the coal mines?

Mr Richard Alexander (Newark, C): Has she seen the example of nails stuck in pieces of wood, left around in various places designed to cripple horses? Will she condemn this heinous cruelty? This is not peaceful picketing but is crude and violent and justifies every police action taken to get my constituents to work.

Mrs Thatcher: I understand it did happen at one mine. Such behaviour is disgraceful and callous.

Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party, asked why the Government had rejected the SDP amendment which would have allowed trigger ballots when a significant group in any industry wanted a ballot.

It is clear (he said) that the tactics of the national executive of the NUM create such chaos in its own ranks that eventually even moderates vote for a national strike to unite the union.

Those moderates, if a trigger ballot existed, would have the right to force a ballot and would probably be a force out against a strike.

Mrs Thatcher: Trigger ballots would give rise to other complications. But I agree that when a ballot is in a union's constitution it is important to have one as soon as possible.

Mr John Rymann (Blyth Valley, Lab): Has the Prime Minister seen the report in the *Times* yesterday in which a ministerial spokesman, the Archbishop of York (Dr John Habgood) has pledged support to the NUM in its fight against the ferocious policy of the National Coal Board on pit closures?

Mrs Thatcher: I do not propose to tangle with his Grace, the Archbishop of York. But unless coal is as cheap and competitive as it could be, many jobs will be lost in other industries.

Mr Alan Howarth (Stratford on Avon, C): Does Mrs Thatcher appreciate that the affection by Dr Owen, in speaking his piece on trade union reform, is remarkably unconvincing.

As a member of the last Labour Government he supported the illiberal and oppressive trade union and labour relations legislation.

for deterrent and effective policing the Government is pursuing.

Ms Clare Short (Birmingham Ladywood, Lab): Despite all the Government's rhetoric and the money it has thrown at law and order, it has failed significantly to make our society safer for people to live in.

Will Mr Brittan change direction and look at methods of preventing crime and making inner cities safer to live in?

Mr Brittan: The dangers of rhetoric are well illustrated by the question. One of the major thrusts of the strategy we are following has been to give increased attention to crime prevention and the neighbourhood watch has this objective.

I have set up a crime prevention unit in the Home Office. We are giving increased attention to it.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief opposition spokesman on home affairs, said: Even if that resulted in the legend that crime under the Labour Party was too high and that his party would reduce it.

It is a fact that serious crime is more than 10 per cent more than five years ago and burglaries 50 per cent more than there were five years ago.

When is Mr Brittan going to bring the level of serious crime and burglaries down to the levels he said were intolerably high five years ago?

including the closed shop. In such matters is a complete change of heart really credible or is it political opportunism on his part?

Mrs Thatcher: I welcome people changing their Labour affiliations. I hope in due course they will change a bit further.

Earlier, Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, said that between March 14 and April 10 a total of 897 people had been arrested for offences connected with the miners' dispute. A further 25 people were arrested and six police officers were injured when a crowd of between 1,500 and 2,000 people, many noisy and some violent gathered outside the NUM offices in Sheffield this morning.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab): Would he confirm that, amongst the hundreds of pickets arrested, a considerable number were arrested for using the word "scab" in reference to other workers?

Does that not compare violently with the way in which in Cresswell in my constituency on Monday night a 12-year-old girl going to an ambulance class passing the police was told by one policeman to "F off"?

Is it not time we had a little bit of even handedness from the police and the Home Secretary? Is that incident I have referred to not also a breach of the peace?

Mr Brittan: I have no reason to believe the accuracy of what he says but if he wishes to make an allegation of that kind in the proper form it will, of course be looked into.

Mr Kenneth Eastham (Manchester, Blackley, Lab): It has been seriously alleged that the police are using provocateurs amongst the strikers and causing unnecessary unrest. Does he not think he ought to take some action and take the police in hand?

Mr Brittan: There is no evidence whatsoever for what he says. The proper use of the words, agent provocateur means somebody who instigates somebody else to commit a criminal offence. I have seen no evidence to suggest any policeman has instigated the commission of an offence.

The presence of plain clothes police officers is quite a different

matter and the phrase should not be misused if that is what he meant.

Mr Michael Howard (Folkestone and Hythe, C): Will he recall that in March 1974, Mr Michael Foot, then Secretary of State for Employment, commented to the House the rules which the NUM said down the picketing in the 1974 dispute which limited the number of pickets in any local situation to six?

Mr Brittan: If he thinks trends can be reversed quickly then he is quite ignorant of the matters on which he speaks. Mr Kaufman knows the increase in the levels of picketing, changes in handling these matters, take time to have their effect.

I am glad to see there are some indications that the trends that existed when Mr Kaufman's Government was in power are coming under control.

Sunday trading 'laws in tatters'

The Sunday trading laws were in tatters and must be reformed and modernized, Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, said.

Mr Anthony Favel (Stockport, C) said certain aspects of these laws were the object of widespread ridicule.

Mr Mellor: I think he has a point. We made it clear to the House, at the time of debate on the private member's Bill on this subject at the end of last year, that we believe the law in this area is in tatters and in grave need of reform.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Easter adjournment debates.



Howarth: NUM attempt to coerce

Would it not help to reduce the conflict between the pickets and the police in the coal fields in the present dispute if the union were to lay down in 1984 the same rules they laid down in 1974?

Mr Brittan: I entirely agree, I think if that were advice, which came from the union itself, were repeated today a lot of the trouble we have seen would be avoided.

Kirk's General Assembly to rule whether killer can train to be minister

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland is to decide next month whether a man convicted of murder can train to become a minister in the church.

St Andrew's Presbytery, the church court that sponsored Mr James Nelson as a candidate, voted by 43 to 42 to withdraw its support at a meeting on Wednesday. Mr Nelson served a 10 year sentence for murdering his mother.

The issue will now go to the General Assembly of the Kirk, where it is feared the divisions could be reflected in the most serious split since the appointment of a Roman Catholic to the chair of theology at New College, the Kirk's training centre for ministers.

Mr Nelson, aged 39, had no comment to make yesterday because he felt it would become a decision for the General Assembly but much of the debate has centred on the alleged sexual relating to Mr Nelson's background when he was adopted as a trainee minister in 1981.

The Rev John Patterson, Presbytery Clerk at St Andrew's, told the ministers and elders deciding the issue that

with hindsight he regretted that Mr Nelson's history had not been made known from the start.

Mr Nelson was released from prison in 1979. He went on to study for a divinity degree at St Andrew's University before being accepted as a probationary minister at Hope Park Church in St Andrew's.

There were 14 objections to his continued candidature from presbyteries and individual members of the church, including Mr Nelson's father.

A motion to discontinue Mr

Nelson's "trial for licence" was tabled by Mr Norman Warrack, an elder of the Kirk, who described the issue as "a tragedy of errors" in which the real victim was Mr Nelson himself.

Professor James Whyte of St Mary's College, where Mr Nelson studied, lodged a formal protest. He also lodged his intention to complain to the General Assembly.

The assembly will now be asked to determine whether Mr Nelson will be taken on trial.

A statement from the Kirk said: "Professor Whyte has reserved his right to dissent and complained to the assembly and has 10 days to lodge his objection with the Presbytery Clerk."

"The effect of this will be that the Presbytery of St Andrew's will be at the Bar of the Assembly and its members will not be able to vote on the debate."

The spokesman added that the General Assembly had the power to decide one way or another whether Mr Nelson was taken on trial and that Mr Nelson himself had a right of appeal.



James Nelson: Support for him withdrawn.

Plea for new subjects in higher education

By Colin Hughes

Universities, colleges and polytechnics must revolutionize their attitudes to traditional academic subjects if they are to meet the needs of the next century, a conference on higher education was told yesterday.

Central government would need to enforce change so that technological and "future" studies become an important part of the curriculum, Professor Ian Black, director of the Chelsea College Centre for Science and Education, told the symposium.

Technological studies were not a subject but a "meeting place" of disciplines, attempting to meet needs and satisfy customers, he told the conference held by the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

Students should work on

technological tasks, drawing on knowledge from more traditional subjects such as science, craft, design, and economics to back up their skills.

With two thirds of teachers in training today having studied for single-subject degrees, academic subject divisions were bound to be reflected on: they started teaching. If school curriculum was going to change, Professor Black suggested, universities had to change first.

Education is inevitably a preparation for the future, yet the University Grants Committee, in opening the "great debate" on universities' prospects, had asked no questions about how universities would alter their degrees to meet the broader needs of society in 30 or 40 years.

Football tickets for judge

Bristol City, the fourth division football club, upset by a judge's comments about the team's play, have invited him to watch a match.

At Bristol crown court, Judge Vowden, QC, sentencing a man who had received stolen property from City supporters cars, had said: "It's bad enough to have to go to watch Bristol City without having things stolen."

The club has replied by sending the judge tickets for the Crewe match on Tuesday.

In a letter to him, Mr Bob Twyford, the club secretary, said: "This will enable you to visit the scene together with a jury of 6,500 people and then pass judgment."

Pianist can keep

£27,500 award

Elizabeth Woodhouse, the former BBC pianist who can no longer play the piano because of a hospital blunder, can keep the £27,000 damages awarded to her by a High Court judge.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the Yorkshire Area Health Authority against the award which was made after Mrs Woodhouse, aged 55, of Brompton, near Scarborough, suffered nerve damage which resulted in deformities in her hands after being treated for an abdominal condition.

Ruling soon on brewery deal

A High Court ruling on the takeover battle for T. & R. Theakston, the North Yorkshire brewing company, will be given next week.

After three days of legal argument Mr Justice Harman reserved judgment on whether a deal made by Mr Paul Theakston, the company chairman, which would enable him to pass control of the company to the Lancashire brewers, Matthew Brown, complies with Theakston's articles of incorporation.

Rambler record

The Ramblers' Association has a record membership of more than 40,000, its annual report says today. The report welcomes the Government's decision to drop Ordnance Survey changes, which ramblers saw as a threat to the quality of maps.

Church raid

St Mary and All Saints, Chesterfield's church with the crooked spire, has been robbed of a silver cross valued at £500. Derbyshire police fear it could be the start of another series of church raids in the county.

Jameson to appeal in libel action

Mr Derek Jameson, the former Fleet Street editor, is to appeal against the failure of his High Court libel action, which left him facing a £75,000 costs bill.

Mr Jameson, aged 54, former editor of the *Daily Star*, *Daily Express* and *News of the World*, lost his action against the BBC in February. The jury found that a sketch about him in the *Radio Four* comedy series *Black Ending* was defamatory, but that it was fair comment and not actuated by malice. Yesterday his solicitor, Mr Peter Carter-Ruck, confirmed that Mr Jameson, of Judd Street, St Pancras, London, would lodge an appeal soon.

It is understood that Mr Jameson's lawyers will argue in the Court of Appeal that the trial judge, Mr Justice Comyn, made errors of law in his conduct of the case and that no reasonable jury could have come to the conclusions reached by the jury if they had been properly directed by the judge.

Red tape on straw fire law reduced

The Home Office is to speed up moves to introduce quickly new strict rules to control the burning of straw in fields, after fears that red tape would prevent many local authorities using the regulations in time for this year's harvest.

Councils have only four weeks left in which to adopt the new model by-law.

Normally it would take the Home Office weeks to confirm the changeover and at least four weeks have to pass after adoption before the new by-law can be enforced.

To allow as many local authorities as possible to accept the new law, the Home Office has agreed for the first time to notify councils by telephone of its approval so that the new regulations can be advertised and implemented while the paperwork is still being carried out.

"Local authorities will be working to a tight timetable to ensure that the by-laws are enforced for this year's straw burning season", the Home Office said.

Lucas sheds more jobs

From Craig Seton, Birmingham

Lucas Aerospace of Birmingham is to shed 310 jobs - about one third of the workforce - at its engine systems division.

The announcement yesterday was a second blow to Birmingham employment prospects. On Monday Lucas Electrical announced a £120m investment plan for its starter motor and alternator sector with a reduction of 700 jobs over five years.

The announcement yesterday

shed further rationalization was necessary because of declining demand, particularly in the civil aircraft market.

The company makes Rolls-Royce RB211 engine components. A spokesman said: "The whole aircraft market is much reduced and there is no prospect of a recovery, certainly not in the short term. When it comes it will be gradual and there will be fierce competition for whatever work is available."

Tracing the origins of sexual guilt

From Philip Howard, Cardiff

The Empress Messalina challenged a leading courtesan in Rome to a competition. The empress won by having a sexual congress with 25 men in a single prolonged session.

This was public, not private behaviour and, in the jargon of sociology, an act of social heroism.

Three centuries later a young girl went on a pilgrimage from Rome to Egypt to see St Arsenius and obtain his prayers. She forced her way into his presence, and implored him to grant her request - namely to remember her and pray for her. "Remember you?" the indignant ascetic said. "It will be the prayer of my life to forget you."

These two stories illustrate the moral revolution in ancient Rome from a culture of shamelessness to one of guilt. In an lecture to the Classical Association's annual meeting in

Cardiff yesterday Professor Keith Hopkins, of Brunel University traced the origins of sexual guilt in western culture.

It came about as Christianity developed from a radical sect of chosen believers into the universal religion of the established church.

The cardinal virtue celebrated in the New Testament was love, but the cardinal virtue adopted by the fathers of the church, after a century of theological and ideological argument, was chastity.

When Christianity was adopted as the state religion, the clergy obtained the political power to impose their new morality. And the new morality they chose was obsessed with sexual sin, which became a crime.

There was a vast and deliberate increase in guilt. There was an unprecedented

internalization of moral conscience, with immense consequences for western civilization. St Clement could write in all seriousness: "Laughter is the prelude to fornication." Mixed bathing in the Roman baths turned some Christian ascetics against ever washing again.

Another speaker argued that Christianity could, and should, have taken a different road in the theological struggles of its founding fathers.

The universal church adopted the moral standards of its radical ascetic wing. By doing so it retained control over it, but at a high cost.

By splitting virtue from happiness, and sexuality from reproduction, the guilt-ridden ascetic fanatics devalued all of them - the combination of sexuality and happiness in particular.



The bounds of Liberty: Scaffolding for repair work rises around the New York statue.

Big hoard of weapons in Sri Lanka claimed Tamil militants in south India are embarrassing Delhi

From Michael Hamlyn, Madras

A cooling breeze came off the Bay of Bengal. The Southern Cross hung low in the sky. We sat on the roof of Buhari's Beach Restaurant with mango juice and ginger chicken and talked of the armed struggle.

"It is only by the use of armed force that we shall be free," said a jolly bearded man, who wanted to be called Shankar. "There will come a time when the warring factions of the freedom movement will unite. We are uniting now. We shall throw the Sinhalese Army out of Eelam."

Eelam is what the Tamil extremists call that area of Sri Lanka they wish to make an independent Tamil state. Its boundaries vary. Sometimes it is restricted to the northern and eastern provinces of Sri Lanka. But to Shankar and other leaders of the Eelam Research Organization (ERO), it also includes areas in the centre of the island around Badulla, where the plantation Tamils predominate.

"We have hundreds of weapons stored in Sri Lanka," Shankar said. How did they get there? Had they come via India? Well, how else can you get there? Shankar and leaders of other militant young men plotting armed revolution - and, in some cases, carrying out attacks which have caused the build-up of tension in the island - have severely embarrassed the Indian Government.

Tamil Nadu (Tamil Land) in south India, where there are 40 million Tamils, all of whom feel a close kinship to their fellows across the 25-mile stretch of water separating them from Sri Lanka, is sheltering at least 38,000 refugees from attacks by Sinhalese gangs nine months ago.

The state also shelters leading politicians of the Tamil United Liberation Front: Mr Appapillai Amirthalingam, the front's president, is given a penthouse in the state guest house here. Asylum is also provided for the leaders of extremist Tamil bands. Mr Velupillai

Naval blockade

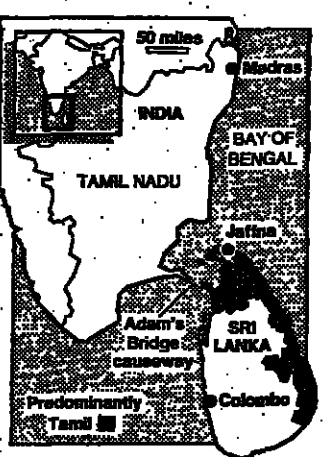
Colombo (AP) - Sri Lanka has imposed a naval blockade along its maritime boundary with India to keep out illegal activity, officials said yesterday.

"The Government has set up a 'surveillance zone' in the Palk Strait, to crack down on the alleged smuggling of arms and men between southern India and the northern Jaffna district of Sri Lanka."

Prabhakaran, the 29 year old chief of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, better known as the Tamil Tigers, moves in and out of Madras and Madurai without apparent hindrance.

Organization of Tamil Eelam is organized from rooms in the state hostel for members of the Legislative Assembly. Two representatives of the Tamil Eelam Army were arrested recently in Tamil Nadu, in possession of valuables alleged to be the proceeds of a bank robbery near Batticaloa in Sri Lanka. They were speedily released on bail.

But what has embarrassed the Government most has been the disclosure in a news magazine, *India Today*, that the young exiles are undergoing armed training in the wild and remote forests and wastelands around



Inside story of China's last dynasty

Peking (AFP) - The 77-year-old brother of China's last emperor is writing his memoirs about the last years of the Qing dynasty and the changes leading to the 1949 communist revolution.

Mr Pu Jie, who lives in Peking with his Japanese wife, has finished 100,000 words of the book, which is to be published with state approval next year. "Writing the memoirs is the sole desire of my remaining years," he was quoted as saying by the New Chinese news agency.

The agency described Mr Pu Jie as "the only person still living who knows the inside story of the Qing dynasty," which collapsed in 1911 when his brother, Pu Yi, then a teenager, was forced to abdicate. Pu Yi died in 1967.

Curfew eased in troubled north of the island

From Donovan Meldrich, Colombo

A Ministry of State spokesman said yesterday that the number of rebels and suspected rebels shot by the armed services in the northern province of Sri Lanka in the three days up to noon was between 25 and 30.

The spokesman described as speculative and false the figure of 57 deaths published in some newspapers. The official said there had been a great improvement in the situation in the north and the earlier 18-hour curfew was being reduced to 14 hours. He denied that there was a third attack on a buddhist temple in Jaffna which had caused the rumours of the death toll being 57.

Rebels had, however, thrown a bomb at the residence of the government agent and attempted to set fire to some vehicles at an administrative complex.

Solidarity leaders urge all Poles to boycott elections

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The fugitive leadership of the banned Solidarity union has called for anti-government protests next month and has urged all Poles to boycott local council elections in June.

A communiqué issued by the four leaders of the underground opposition said recent tradition of protesting on May Day, the workers' holiday, and on May 3, the anniversary of the liberal 1791 constitution, should be maintained.

"For the past few years society has revived the tradition of staging demonstrations on May 1 and 3. Organizing independent celebrations and declining to take part in official celebrations arranged by the authorities," Last May Day there were demonstrations in 20 Polish cities and on May 1, 1982, the first after martial law, hundreds of thousands of Solidarity sympathizers came on to the streets, taking the authorities by surprise.

The call to protest is more muted than last year, perhaps because there has been such a poor response to demonstration appeals over the past 10 months. Those most likely to demonstrate for Solidarity will be students and schoolchildren rather than workers who are under relatively tight control in their factories.

The May Day and May 3 appeal was accompanied by a separate statement condemning to local council elections due on June 17. These polls, said the underground leaders, should be boycotted.

The elections "create for world opinion the appearance of a social mandate for the authorities. For internal use they are a tool for subjugating society, breaking down its dignity and sovereignty." A concerted national boycott would "show that the most immediate need for the country is for authorities who have the confidence of the people, expressed in the form of a free election."

The statement was signed by Mr Zbigniew Bujak, leader of the Warsaw Solidarity branch,



Mr Bogdan Lis, underground chief in Gdansk.

Mr Bogdan Lis, the Gdansk leader, Mr Tadeusz Jedynak, of Katowice, and Mr Edward Szumieko, of Wroclaw, that suggests that the main protests will be in those four regions.

The normal practice after such an appeal is that the regional underground centres issue detailed instructions to local supporters by means of leaflets distributed in schools, universities and factories. Last week some leaflets, mainly calling for an election boycott, were dropped from the rooftops along Marszałkowska Street, Warsaw's main shopping thoroughfare.

Official concern about opposition activity in the universities was expressed yesterday by the Communist Party daily *Trybuna Ludu*. Under the Polish higher education law, universities are allowed, with certain qualifications, to elect their own governing bodies. In supplementary elections recently, Mr Janusz Onysiewicz, a former spokesman for Solidarity and a lecturer in mathematics, was elected to the senate.

This has caused some anguish in the Government and the Education Ministry has already sent a memorandum to the university pointing out that the elections "violated the law" and could not be considered valid.

Bank plot blamed on laxity in Canberra

From Tony Duboulin, Melbourne

Mr John Bjelke-Peterson, the Queensland Premier, has blamed the federal Government after a bizarre extortion threat to blow up the managers and their families of Australia's fourth largest banks unless the banks pay \$A2m (about £1.3m).

The demand was made in letters to the banks and threatened to blow up the homes of the Queensland managers of the Australian and New Zealand Banking Corporation, Westpac, and the National Australia and Commonwealth banks unless each paid \$A500,000.

Queensland police now believe that threats of violence could be made elsewhere in Australia, and security at banks has been increased nationally.

The extortion threats were made public late on Wednesday by Mr Bjelke-Peterson, after the letters had been received on

Monday. The Premier immediately turned the threat into a political issue by blaming Canberra.

"The federal people in Canberra under Mr Hawke have made Australia the home of terrorist groups," he said. "They have allowed the PLO, the IRA and Swapo people to set up headquarters in Australia. They have got offices here and all the facilities to operate."

"That is another feather in Mr Hawke's cap. I say it is disgusting and disgraceful and I will continue to say that. I am not saying these terrorists are involved here."

The bank threat is the second extortion demand involving Queensland this year. In January the Premier's office received a letter threatening to introduce foot-and-mouth disease to Australia unless certain reforms were carried out in the Queensland prison system.

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Lebanon summit delayed as pressure mounts for Syrian intervention

From Robert Fisk, Damascus

President Assad of Syria and President Gemayel of Lebanon yesterday postponed their summit in Damascus as Lebanese opposition leaders tried to put pressure on both governments by suggesting the Syrian Army should enter Beirut as a "deterrent force" to stamp out the civil war as it did in 1976.

Mr Walid Jumblatt, the Druze leader who can regularly be found these days in the bar of the Sheraton Hotel in Damascus, is voicing increasing pessimism about the endlessly proposed ceasefire in Beirut and said yesterday that the Syrians should again intervene militarily, knowing full well that - at present at least - this is the last thing the Syrians wish.

Neither President Assad nor President Gemayel sees any point in going through the pomp and circumstance of a second summit in Damascus unless it can be used to consecrate a genuine and lasting truce in Beirut that will preserve both political reforms and governmental stability in Lebanon.

Nevertheless as a threat to their Christian opponents as much as to the Syrians themselves, the Muslim opposition in the city is showing ever more public enthusiasm for the re-entry of Syrian troops.

In the Lebanese capital yesterday Shaikh Hassan Khaled, the Grand Mufti, said he would "welcome the entry of Syrian deterrent forces to Beirut to disengage the combatants".

adding artfully that this could take place only if all parties concerned agreed.

Syria sent its army into Lebanon in 1976 as an "Arab deterrent force" after an appeal from President Suleiman Frangieh and later secured an Arab League mandate to control Beirut in the company of small contingents of Saudi, Sudanese and North Yemeni troops.

Although the mandate has not been renewed for more than two years, the Syrians still refer to their army in Lebanon as the Arab deterrent force and the name still appears on rusting signs at checkpoints in the north and east of the country.

The Syrians, however, know full well that to order their armour back down the mountains to Beirut, whence they were evicted by the Israelis two years ago, would risk both Christian Maronite opposition and quite probably hostile intervention by the Israeli Air Force.

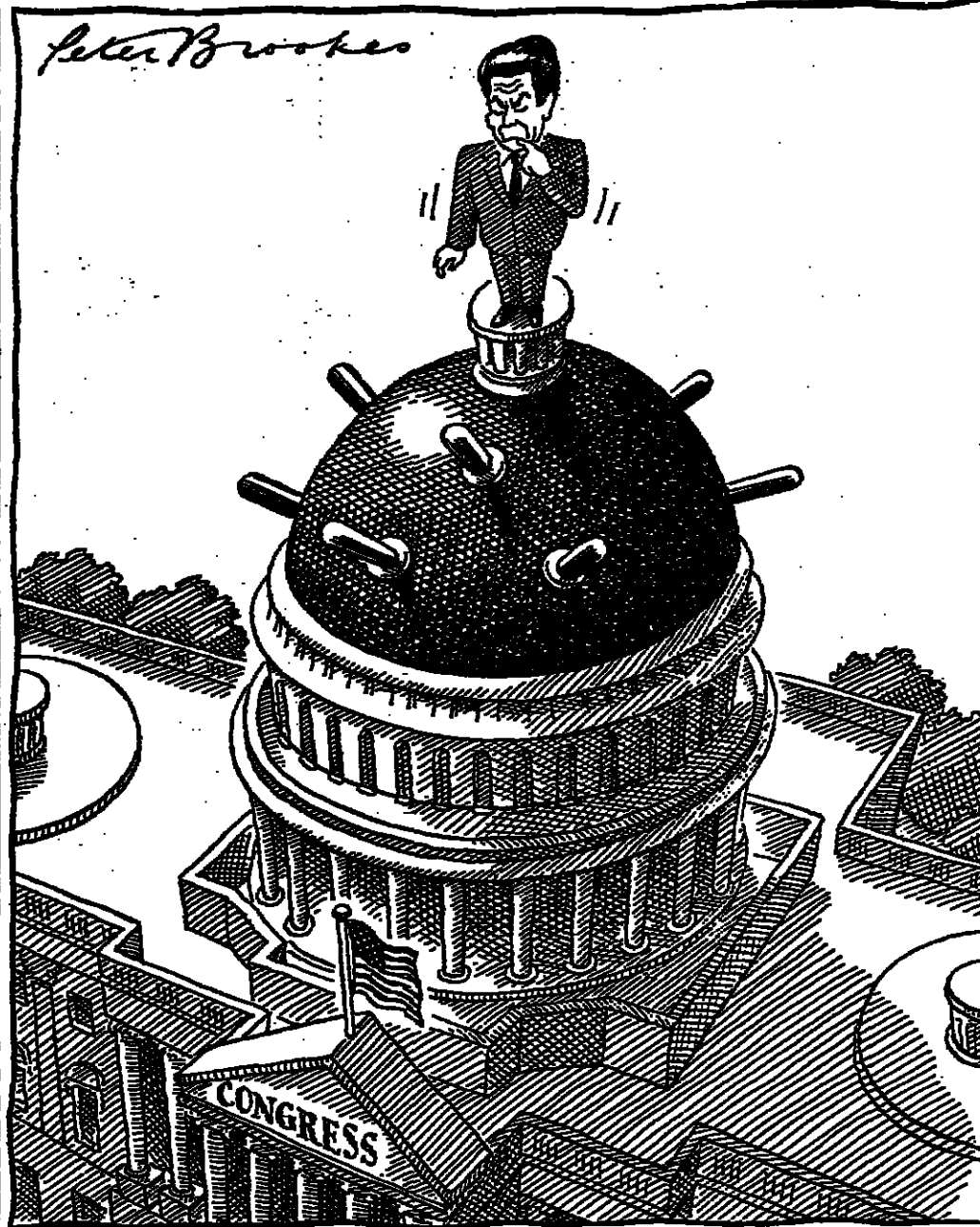
The whole burden of Syrian policy since the failed reconciliation conference at Lausanne last month had been to persuade the parties in Lebanon that neither side is now in a position to "win" the civil war; and that they must therefore reach mutual agreement on a new government, albeit one that favours Syria's own "pan-Arab" and anti-Israeli ambitions. If Syria is again to use its Army in the Lebanese capital, the time has not yet arrived.

Jumblatt is evidently trying to frighten President Gemayel's own embattled administration, announcing that he believes the fighting in Beirut will go on for "years and years" and condemning the Lebanese authorities for allegedly sending an emissary to Washington to negotiate an \$80m (£54m) arms deal with the Americans.

However, Mr Jumblatt's putative Lebanese ally, Mr Nabih Berri of the Shia Muslim Amal militia, has pointedly made no demand for Syrian military assistance in Beirut and, unlike Mr Jumblatt, spending much of his time trying to disengage his guerrillas from the Beirut front line and to find some *modus vivendi* with both the Lebanese government and the Phalangists.

As the Druze rely almost entirely upon Syria for artillery and ammunition, an agreement between President Gemayel and President Assad will, in Lebanese eyes, change the mood of the Druze leader and possibly control his tongue as well as his militia. Mr Gemayel and Mr Berri, whose forces are far larger than those of Mr Jumblatt, are the two men Syria wishes to influence, not to mention the Phalangist forces whom Syria still suspects President Gemayel can command.

Since the Syrian Army was driven out of east Beirut by the Phalangists in 1978, this only provided a further reason why President Assad should not wish to commit his soldiers to a further adventure in Lebanon.



Curbing the intelligence agencies

15 senators monitor US spies

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Senate select committee on intelligence, whose 15 members are so aggrieved by the administration's failure to inform them about the CIA role in mining Nicaraguan waters, was set up in May 1976 on the recommendation of the Church committee.

Chaired by the late Senator Frank Church, it was established to look into abuses by the US intelligence community, many of which had found their way into the press after the Watergate scandal.

The Church committee found that the intelligence agencies were not properly accountable to Congress because jurisdiction over their activities lay with four separate congressional bodies.

One of the committee's main recommendations was to consolidate responsibility for all intelligence matters in the hands of a new Senate select committee on intelligence. This, studies, makes recommendations and proposes legislation on intelligence activities and policies.

It oversees the CIA, the National Security Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency and other intelligence activities of the US Government to ensure conformity with the American constitution and laws and it authorizes budgets for the intelligence community.

The House permanent select committee on intelligence performs a similar function in the House of Representatives.

Because it is dealing with the nation's secrets, most of its meetings are behind closed doors.

The influence of Congressional committees is to a large extent determined by the people who head them. As presently constituted, the Senate intelligence committee is particularly muscular.

Its chairman is Senator Barry Goldwater (Republican, Arizona), a former Presidential candidate and a man who normally has the ear of

President Reagan.

Its vice-chairman is Senator Daniel Moynihan (Democrat, New York) one of the most prominent members of the Democratic Party whose counsel is widely respected by Republicans as well as by the White House.

For a city as leak-prone as Washington, the Senate intelligence committee has built up a remarkable record for keeping its mouth shut. (The original leaks about the mining operations came from the House committee.)

And it was the leaking of the text of Senator Goldwater's letter to Mr William Casey, the CIA Director, which revealed just how annoyed the committee was about not being told exactly what the CIA was up to in Nicaragua.

This was the Senate's way of showing that it is not prepared for this or any other Administration to undermine its jurisdiction over the American intelligence community.

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Uproar over mining may hit aid to Salvador

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The uproar caused by the clandestine US role in mining Nicaragua's harbours is now threatening to thwart the Reagan Administration's efforts to increase military assistance to El Salvador in its fight against left-wing guerrillas.

An angry Congress seems certain not only to block President Reagan's request for \$21m (£15m) for covert aid to anti-Sandinist rebels in Nicaragua, but also in withholding approval of \$62m in emergency aid to El Salvador - at least until after Congress's Easter recess.

Frantic attempts by Administration officials, including private assurances that the laying off of mines had ceased last weekend, to save Congress's hurt feelings at not being informed about the mining operation have not succeeded in stemming the revolt in both the Senate and the House.

Late on Wednesday the House foreign affairs committee voted 32-3 with two abstentions to approve a non-binding resolution opposing the use of Government funds for mining Nicaraguan waters. The resolution was the same as that overwhelmingly passed by the Republican-controlled Senate the previous day. The full House was expected to approve the measure late yesterday.

The House intelligence committee was also voted to delete all funds for supporting Nicaraguan rebels, known as contras, from the fiscal 1985 intelligence authorization was the Senate foreign relations committee's decision to exclude El Salvador from the \$11.100m foreign aid Bill. None of the \$13.75m aid for the whole of Central America asked for by the Administration was approved.

This was a deliberate snub by the committee which had earlier approved the Administration's request for aid to El Salvador and Nicaraguan rebels before the CIA operations had become known.

The White House has been stunned by the anger which has erupted on Capitol Hill and the Administration's failure fully to inform Congress of what was happening.

The Administration's two immediate concerns now are: Will the US be able to continue to support the contras if the House blocks the \$21m aid request and how can the US continue to help El Salvador if the House also decides to turn the aid tap off?

● **TEGUCIGALPA:** American-backed rebels fighting the Sandinista Army from Honduras have denied any direct US involvement in the mining of Nicaraguan ports (Alan Tomlinson writes).

Señor Adolfo Calero, leader of the largest rebel group, the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, said the mines had been placed by his own men and not by a special commando unit closely run by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) as reported in Washington, where intelligence officials have been quoted as saying the operation is directly supervised by CIA agents on a ship just outside Nicaraguan territorial waters.

Rebel leaders were reluctant to go into details of the operation.

Tanzanian Premier killed in crash

Dar es Salaam (Reuters) - Mr Edward Sokoine, the Tanzanian Prime Minister, was killed in a road accident yesterday near Dodoma, Tanzania's future capital. He was 46.

Mr Sokoine, who took over as Prime Minister last year after having once resigned the post in 1980 due to ill health, was widely expected to be the main contender to succeed President Julius Nyerere.

President Nyerere has hinted strongly in recent years that he will retire and the most recent indications are that he plans to do so next year.

Born in the Arusha region of Northern Tanzania close to the Kenyan border, Mr Sokoine was a member of the Massi tribe, a powerful group of warriors before colonialization. He was educated in Tanzanian schools.

Maize relief for southern Africa

Johannesburg (Reuters) - South African plans to import a record 5.5 million tonnes of maize this year to make up for a shortfall caused by drought.

Much is destined for Zimbabwe and Zambia, and probably also Zaire, Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland.

University riot

Seoul (Reuters) - The Sogang University in South Korea has suspended classes for three days after more than 2,000 students rioted at three universities during anti-government demonstrations. About 30 students and police were hurt.

Frontier battle

Peking (AP) - China claimed yesterday that its frontier forces killed or wounded "large numbers" of Vietnamese troops and wrecked hundreds of their military installations in heavy shelling. It was retaliation for "persistent Vietnamese provocations and harassment".

Police pounce

Rome (AP) - Italian police have arrested four left-wing terrorists suspects on charges of robbery, extortion, kidnapping and membership of the extreme left-wing terror group, the Armed Revolutionary Proletariat.

Still talking

Peking (Reuters) - The latest round of Sino-British talks on Hongkong's future ended yesterday with the routine official statement from the British Embassy that they were useful and constructive.

Costly ride

New York (AP) - A man who posed as a taxi driver, once charging a Japanese motor \$500 for a \$25 trip into Manhattan from Kennedy Airport, has been sentenced to up to nine years in jail for grand larceny, bribery, and unlawful imprisonment.

Runway open

Frankfurt (Reuters) - Frankfurt Airport's controversial third runway was inaugurated amid tight security to prevent violence from demonstrators.

Mubarak seizes opposition newspaper

From Our Correspondent Cairo

An edition of the *Al Wafd* weekly opposition newspaper was seized by the Egyptian Government yesterday, the first such action since President Mubarak took office in 1981.

The newspaper is the organ of the right-wing New Wafd Party. A spokesman said the issues had been confiscated "apparently because it published a news item about the Jihad Organization".

The Government blames Jihad, a fundamentalist Muslim group, for the murder of President Sadat and a subsequent attempt to overthrow the regime and set up a Muslim fundamentalist state.

Yesterday's impounded issue of *Al Wafd* reported that arms and documents taken from some 300 Jihad members now on trial had been stolen from a safe in a room adjoining the court-room. At heavily guarded premises in a Cairo suburb not far from where Sadat was shot.

There has been no report of such a theft in the semi-official press. An Interior Ministry spokesman declined to comment.

The Wafd spokesman said the newspaper confiscation was ordered by the Ministry of the Interior and went to court yesterday for a ruling on the legitimacy of the impoundment.

The reports on the theft said: "An organized group must have prepared for it for a long time."

It said an examination revealed that neither the safe nor the door to the office had been forced. The newspaper also said the prosecution had clamped down on the investigation.

Turk extradited over attempt on Pope's life

Rome (Reuters) - A Turk wanted by Italian magistrates investigating the attempted assassination of the Pope in 1981 was extradited from West Germany yesterday, judicial sources said. Mr Omer Mersan was taken directly to a Rome jail for questioning.

He is suspected of having supplied Mehmet Ali Agca with a false passport shortly before he shot the Pope.

A former Bulgarian airline official, Mr Sergei Antonov, is being held on suspicion of plotting with Agca. He and the Bulgarian Government have denied any involvement.

Beirut's UN appeal on Israeli role

Beirut (Reuters) - As part of a stepped-up diplomatic offensive against the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, the Lebanese Government has decided to protest to the UN Security Council about Israel's latest measures isolating the region from the rest of the country.

President Gemayel and the Foreign Minister, Mr Elie Salem, also decided last night to back a recommendation by the UN Secretary-General, Javier Perez de Cuellar, that the role of UN troops in southern Lebanon should eventually be expanded to include helping the Government gain control over the area.

Mr Salem said the diplomatic initiative was "an important turning point in Lebanon's efforts to liberate the south and restore national sovereignty over the region".

In a related development Mr Gemayel yesterday had a second meeting in 24 hours with the UN Ambassador, Mr Reginald Bartholomew.

Washington is Israel's principal ally and Lebanese sources said southern Lebanon was discussed at both meetings.

Israel's almost total isolation of occupied southern Lebanon for the past two weeks has caused alarm in Lebanon about its possible intention to annex the region.

However, a senior Israeli official in Jerusalem yesterday said that Israel had no intention of cutting southern Lebanon off from the rest of the country permanently.

Israeli troops have cut the last road link there for all but two days since March 29, allowing through only a trickle of vehicles. Telephone and telex links are also cut.

The Lebanese Government's diplomatic offensive, which came during a relative lull in the fighting in Beirut yesterday, follows its allegation last month of a US-mediated accord with Israel on the withdrawal of Israeli troops. The May 1983 pact was rejected by Lebanese Muslims and Syria because it envisaged a continued Israeli security presence in the south and limited Lebanese security forces on the area.

Overall, American women working full-time earn 62 per cent of what men earn, according to Labour Department figures for 1982.

According to the Census Bureau report, one reason for earnings disparities in better jobs is that women tend to work fewer hours than men. Also many women in highly paid jobs are beginners who earn less than males with more experience.

The report showed that the proportion of women public administrators and officials rose between 1970 and 1980 from 21.7 to 33.6 per cent. The percentage of women judges and lawyers rose from 5 to 14. The proportion of women architects more than doubled to 8.3 per cent.

Among writers, artists, entertainers and actors, women made up 42.1 per cent in 1980 compared with 32.5 per cent ten years earlier. Among editors and writers, the proportion rose from 42 to 49.3 per cent.

Despite the increases, several other US studies have shown that when a company hires young men and women of equal education and experience, it often places the women in jobs with less potential for promotion.

Women's pay, however, continues to lag behind men's.

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American women see their careers take off

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The proportion of women in executive, managerial and administrative occupations in the United States has leapt in 10 years across a range of professions. There have been notable increases in the percentage of women in law, accounting, personnel management, medicine, teaching, science and acting.

Overall the proportion of women in these and other careers increased from 18.5 per cent in 1970 to 30.5 per cent in 1980, according to figures issued by the Census Bureau.

In accounting and auditing the proportion of women is now 38 per cent, an increase of 13 per cent. The percentage of women financial managers rose from 19.4 to 31.4. In personnel and labour relations careers, the new figure is 36 per cent compared with 21 per cent 10 years earlier.

Even with the increases, the proportion in most categories is still lower than the overall proportion of women in the American labour force, 42.6 per cent. Suzanne Bianchi, a co-author of the Census Bureau's report, said that women's increased entry into more highly paid managerial and professional occupations in part follows improvements in their educational qualifications.

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Challenger celebrates its success

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

The five members of the "Ace Satellite Repair Company" were jubilant yesterday after the success of their retrieval and repair mission 300 miles above the Earth.

The satellite Solar Max was re-installed in orbit, pointing directly at the Sun and resumed the studies that were interrupted when it broke down three years ago. With its new components, Solar Max could continue working until 1991.

Mission control in Houston reported that the satellite was working well and the astronauts were preparing to bring the shuttle Challenger back to Earth. If the weather remains good, it will land at its base at Cape Canaveral, Florida, at 7.07am local time today (1.07pm BST).

Solar Max was placed in orbit by the Challenger's robot arm. With everything working well, Captain Robert Crippen and his team donned jerseys bearing the words "Ace Satellite Repair Company" grouped themselves in front of a television camera.

Captain Crippen, making his third shuttle flight, said: "We are all feeling very good right now." His sense of relief and triumph was echoed at mission control.

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Mayors die in Philippine election violence

From Keith Dalton, Manila

With one month to go before the Philippines first general election since martial law was lifted in 1981, the campaigning has already turned violent with at least 10 election-related deaths reported in the past fortnight.

The victims include a mayor and a deputy mayor who were both murdered "execution-style".

Moments after addressing 500 opposition supporters on Wednesday night in Sipocot town in Camarines Sur, the deputy mayor Mr Rosita Yilla-fuerte, was shot at point-blank range in the back of the head beneath the outdoor stage.

Gunfire killed another two men nearby and badly injured two dancers on stage. One of the young dancers died yesterday in hospital. While military authorities blame communist rebels for the attack, local officials believe hired gunmen were responsible.

A pro-government candidate was killed on Sunday in the southern province of Surigao del Sur. Mr Recaredo Castillo, the 73-year-old mayor of Bislig, was killed by a bullet in the head.

The gunman, with two lookouts, escaped on a motor cycle, police said.

● **Accused priests:** The Deputy Justice Minister, Mr Jesus Borromeo, yesterday told lawyers of three Roman Catholic priests - including an Australian and an Irish missionary - that he needs more evidence before he will decide whether to drop multiple murder charges against them and six church leaders.

All nine have pleaded not guilty to charges that they plotted the murder of a town mayor and four of his aides.

Nigeria purges civil servants

Lagos (AFP) - The Nigerian Federal Civil Service Commission has announced the immediate compulsory retirement or dismissal of 3,000 civil servants of various grades as part of a continuing purge by the military administration.

The campaign in six establishments is directed against "undesirable, partisan and unproductive" public officials. The Communications Ministry will lose most staff.

But British Government sources said last night that a lot of hard work remained to be done and no decisive outcome should be expected. It was being seen more as a useful opportunity for a comprehensive review of the Anglo-Chinese negotiations which opened in September 1982.

The sources said that the atmosphere was good and progress had been made. With \$1,178m worth of trade between Britain and Hongkong last year, the Government had a clear interest in ensuring that the prosperity and stability of the colony survived the expiry of Britain's lease in 1997.

Other international issues, including East-West relations and the Middle East, will also be covered in Sir Geoffrey's talks with Mr Wu Xueqian, the Chinese Foreign Minister.

Howe flies to Peking today

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Sir Geoffrey Howe flies to China tomorrow for high-level talks on the future of Hongkong, with five months to go before the deadline for an agreement fixed by the Peking government.

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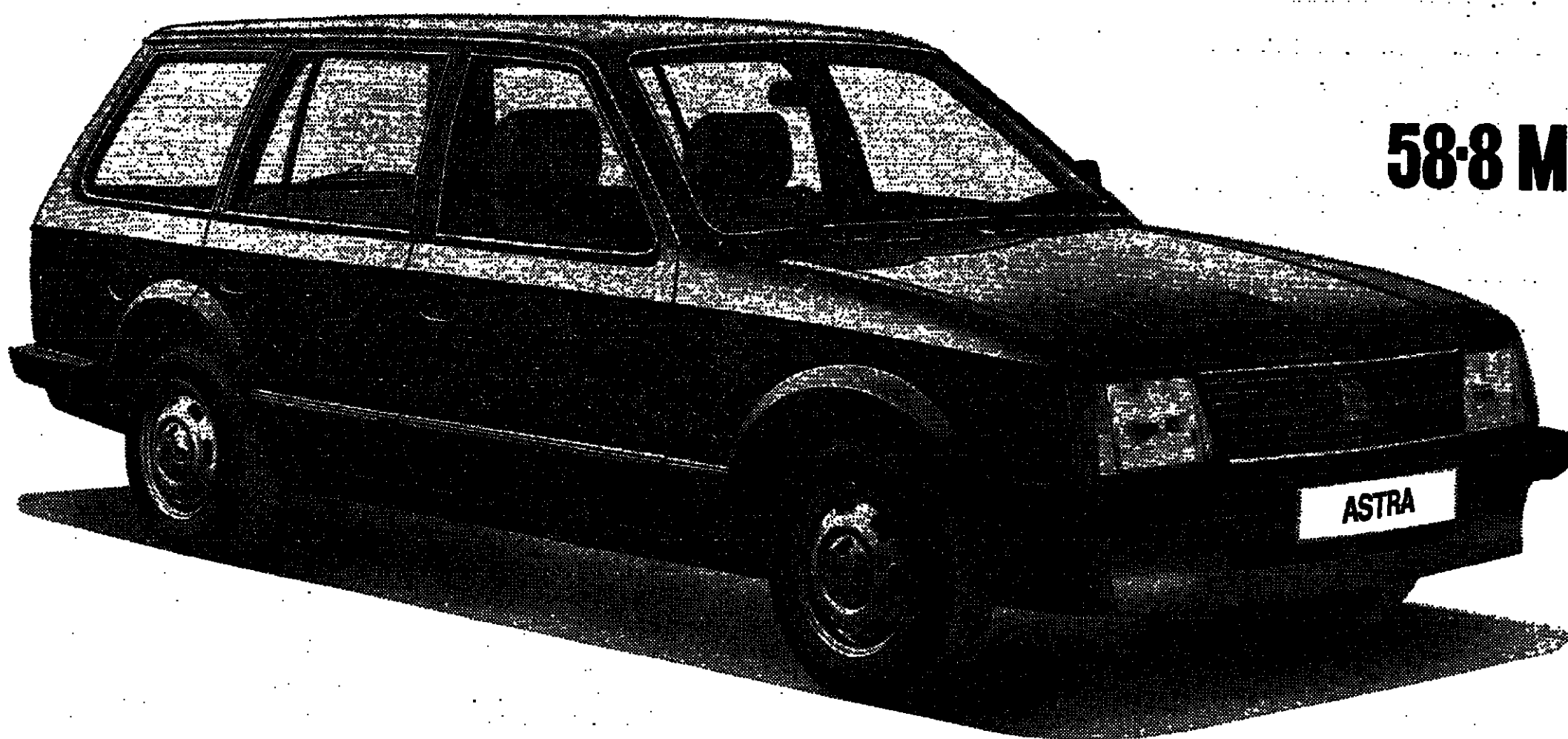
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South Africa credits its cross-border raids with paving way to peace

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa's "forceful military action" over the past decade, including cross-border raids against Namibian nationalist guerrilla bases in Angola, created the climate in which the current peace initiatives in the Southern African region became possible, the Pretoria Government has claimed in a defence White Paper.

The paper, on defence and armaments supply for 1984, was tabled in Parliament on Wednesday by General Magnus Malan, the Minister of Defence. It indicates no slackening in South Africa's military effort, despite the better hopes for peace, but furnishes figures showing that, although defence spending has increased sharply in recent years, it has also declined in real terms.

The White Paper argues that South Africa's pursuit of "a successful strategy of deterrence" has allowed (black) African states "to experience the dangers of Russian involvement in their countries, as well as the suffering and retrogression that follows upon the revolutionary formula".

Over the past decade many of South Africa's neighbours have "come to their senses and have had their eyes opened to the dangers of Russian imperialism", the paper states. As a result, it will be "possible to

Escapers held

Seven members of the African National Congress were arrested after a shoot-out with police in Mbabane, the Swaziland capital. They belonged to a group of 15 who escaped from police custody last weekend.

The shoot-out, indicates the pressure which the guerrilla movement is under as a result of security pacts South Africa has signed with Mozambique and Swaziland.

conduct future negotiations in a calm and relaxed atmosphere, thereby gaining more time in which the negotiating process can develop, until lasting peace and prosperity is attained in the entire sub-continent".

The "decisive factors" in meeting the short-term military threat to South Africa, the paper says, are continued pressure against the South-West African People's Organization (Swapo) guerrillas in Namibia and their African National Congress (ANC) counterparts in South Africa, the goodwill and support of the "broad (South African) population" and the preparedness of the Defence Force.

Over the long term, the paper maintains, the scale of the conventional military threat to South Africa posed by sur-

rounding black states would be determined primarily by the extent to which the Soviet Union and "international organizations" were prepared to become involved as well as the readiness of neighbouring states to serve as bases for "destabilization and terrorism".

The paper denounces the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity as the most important "worldwide and regional organizations" which, it claims, "lend themselves to furthering (Russian) objectives in Southern Africa by joining the propaganda onslaught against the Republic of South Africa". It says that certain church leaders in South Africa are also part of this onslaught.

The paper identifies new airfields and stepped-up naval shipbuilding as two priority areas and, in the light of the world embargo on arms supplies to South Africa, expresses concern that "some of the most reliable main armaments" are now obsolete.

The paper declares that South Africa will have to concentrate on the local development, production and commission of a new generation of main armaments to meet the threat of the Soviet stockpile in certain neighbouring countries and "to maintain the existing balance of power".



Beside the point: Rudolph Nureyev arriving in Munich where he is taking part in an international ballet festival.

Revenge of the Samurai

Nairobi (AP) — A Kenyan, aged 35, who had a hand cut off by a Briton wielding a Samurai sword, was sentenced yesterday to two years' imprisonment and one stroke of a cane for housebreaking.

Andrew Nduini Kamere, who pleaded guilty, was arrested at a mission hospital near Mount Kenya, when staff became

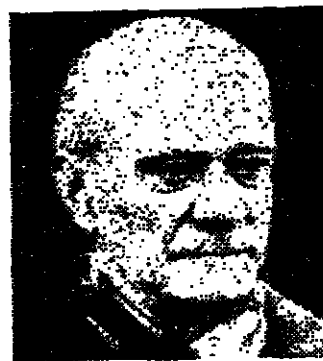
suspicious after reading a newspaper account of the attempted break-in.

Mr Claude Robertson-Dunn, aged 62, had struck out in the dark with the sword, a souvenir from war service in Burma, when at least two intruders tried to force their way into his home. He was not aware that he had injured anyone.

Chernenko behind editor's removal

Tikhonov lip service to détente

From Richard Owen, Moscow



Mr Tikhonov: Offered no arms concessions

Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, newly confirmed as the Soviet Prime Minister, yesterday called for a "change for the better in the international situation" but offered no hope that the Chernenko administration might make arms concessions to reactivate détente, one of President Chernenko's declared aims.

Mr Tikhonov, aged 78, was speaking on the second and final day of the Supreme Soviet or parliament. He presented an unchanged list of ministers, confirming that the new leadership favours conservatism and the status quo rather than the personnel changes that marked the Andropov era.

The list of three Deputy Prime Ministers was headed by Mr Geidar Aliyev, aged 60, widely seen as one of the most able men in the Politburo despite the handicap of his Azerbaijani origin. The other two deputy premiers are Mr Andrei Gromyko and Mr Ivan Arkhipov, both in their seventies. Mr Gromyko remains at the Foreign Ministry, and Marshal Ustinov stays as Defence Minister.

On the opening day of the session on Wednesday Mr Chernenko, the party leader, was elected President. He was nominated by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, aged 53, who is increasingly seen as the country's next leader.

Mr Tikhonov said yesterday that Soviet defence measures were only a "natural reply to the recklessness of militarist circles

editorship, to which he was appointed by Mr Andropov. Sources said Mr Chernenko had also met Mr Nikolai Shchekolokhov, the disgraced former Interior Minister, but was unable to offer him a post since he had been expelled from the Central Committee under Mr Andropov. Some of Mr Shchekolokhov's privileges have been restored.

The Supreme Soviet yesterday approved a new law on school reform introduced by Mr Aliyev. The reform, sponsored by Mr Chernenko in the Politburo, emphasizes vocational training and industrial experience and provides for children to begin school at six instead of seven.

Mr Aliyev said the reform would radically improve the outmoded Soviet educational system and train Russians for life in the twenty-first century. The new law also emphasizes ideological indoctrination.

● MADRID: Plans for an official visit to the Soviet Union by King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophia went ahead here yesterday after Mr Chernenko was elected President, according to reliable sources in Madrid. (Harry Debelius writes).

The visit, which was delayed recently, apparently because there was no Soviet head of state to receive the King and Queen, will be the first by a Spanish head of state, and may take place as early as next month. The trip was first discussed six years ago.

Chile bishops seek democracy timetable

From Florencia Varas, Santiago

Chilean bishops have issued a declaration calling for an end to violence and asking the Government to establish a timetable for a return to democracy. It is the first time that the Roman Catholic Church has asked the Government for such a timetable.

The appeal comes at a time when President Pinochet's regime has resumed its hard line toward the left wing opposition, with the expulsion to Brazil of two Communist leaders and renewed censorship of five opposition magazines.

Señor Juan Pablo Cardenas, editor of the centre-left magazine *Analysis*, was arrested in his office on Tuesday as he was composing a letter of protest at the regime of the latest edition of his twice-monthly publication.

The current issue, which appeared on the streets this week, publishes the results of an opinion poll in which the majority of Chileans called for President Pinochet's resignation. According to the poll, 75.4 per cent of the public wanted General Pinochet to step down before the end of his presidential term in 1989 and 57.7 per cent wanted him to leave office immediately. The poll said only 36.3 per cent of the population wanted him to remain in power.

Last week's Cabinet reshuffle, which signalled the end of rigid monetarist policies, has won the backing of local businessmen and suggests that the government is trying to gain middle class support through populist policies while stepping up its repression of the Marxist left.

The decision to change national economic policy was apparently taken by General Pinochet as he toured Santiago by helicopter on the night of

March 27 and saw, for the first time, burning barricades and street demonstrations.

The new Cabinet, headed by Señor Sergio Onofre Jarpa, will attempt to regain the support of the commercial, industrial and transport interests through domestic policies determined to bring about economic revival and create new jobs.

Attempts will be made to revise Chile's International Monetary Fund obligations by modifying strict conditions on state spending and interest payments. Señor Luis Escobar Cerda, the new Finance Minister, is at the moment in Washington having discussions with the International Monetary Fund on Chile's debts.

By abandoning the economic policies to which he attributes his growing unpopularity, General Pinochet has once again shown his political skill. Meanwhile, the non-Marxist opposition represented in the Alianza Democrática coalition, which includes both right-wing and Socialist parties, has not been able to capitalize on the success of its last day of protest.

The Alianza's proposed plans for government were to have been made public, but strong differences of opinion within the coalition have prevented this. There is political infighting within the Alianza between those who still advocate an attempt at dialogue and those who demand a total break with the Government.

The leftist parties represented in the Movimiento Democrático Popular, which includes Communists, Marxist Socialists and the Revolutionary Left Movement, have called for a complete break with the military government and advocate all forms of struggle against it, including armed resistance.

Too much milk and too few babies

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg

The EEC has too much milk and too few babies, the European Parliament heard yesterday. By the end of the year it will have 1 million unwanted tonnes of butter. By the end of the century, unless people can be encouraged to make love for Europe, the native European will be an aging, endangered species.

The milk delivery news was given by Mr Paul Dalsager, the Agriculture Commissioner. Despite the recent agreement to put a limit on milk production, he said, the beef mountain would add to difficulties and a restrictive price policy would be obligatory.

The baby news came in a curt report from two Christian Democrats, Mr Lambert Cruz of Belgium and Signor Paolo Sarbi of Italy. By the year 2000, it said, Europeans would have dropped in number to only 4.5 per cent of the world's population, compared with 8.8 per cent 30 years ago.

Mr Dalsager suggested that in future the typical farming family could not expect to live exclusively by agriculture. A pricing policy to "guide production in the way" which common sense dictates would mean that alternative jobs would have to be created outside farming to supplement incomes.

The Christian Democrats suggested that the typical family unit could only be expected to grow if there were social security inducements.

Print strike hits papers in Germany

From Our Correspondent, Bonn

West-German newspaper and magazine printers yesterday opened a trade union campaign for a 35-hour working week by halting 24-hour news strikes at 30 plants around the country.

The affected plants included six in Hamburg area and another six in and around Frankfurt. None of the five daily newspapers published in Frankfurt was expected to appear today, nor the international edition of *Financial Times*.

The strikes were called by the printers' trade union, IG Druck und Papier, after a breakdown of talks about pay and a 35-hour week without wage penalties. The union yesterday described the selective strikes as a "form" of flexible industrial action.

The union also called on journalists of the affected newspapers to show solidarity with the printers by staging similar "warning" strikes. The German journalists' trade union passed on the call to its members.

The print employers' association in Wiesbaden, yesterday took a relaxed view of the strikes. "We are not at present planning countermeasures, and especially no lockouts," a spokesman said.

Widespread strikes in the metal industry are also expected if the powerful metalworkers' trade union IG Metall and employers are not able to reach agreement.



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No garnishee order 88-year-old extradition practice overruled

Alcom Ltd v Republic of Colombia
Before Lord Diplock, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Roskill and Lord Templeman
[Speeches delivered April 12]

A judgment creditor seeking to satisfy a judgment for money obtained against a foreign state could not use garnishee proceedings to freeze that state's London bank account unless the creditor could show that the balance in that account was solely to meet liabilities incurred in commercial transactions.

The House of Lords overruled the Court of Appeal's decision on October 24, 1983 (58 TC 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030, 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1041, 1042, 1043, 1044, 1045, 1046, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1066, 1067, 1068, 1069, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1075, 1076, 1077, 1078, 1079, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130, 1131, 1132, 1133, 1134, 1135, 1136, 1137, 1138, 1139, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151, 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THE TIMES DIARY

Mistaken identity

When I arrived for dinner with Glasgow's gangland killer Jimmy Boyle at the chi-chi L'Escargot in Soho, the waiter told me: "Mr Biggs is in the bar." "Mr Biggs?" "Yes," said the waiter conspiratorially. "It is Mr Ronald Biggs, isn't it?" "See one, see them all," said Boyle, in town to launch *Pain of Confession*, a collection of diaries written during the last nine years of his murder sentence. "Sounds as if it should be on the maternity shelf" - a timely remark since his wife Sarah had a daughter last week, an event at which the hard man fainted. Boyle has now taken on a new persona as a "surrogate mother", having set up a centre in Edinburgh for heroin addicts and deprived youngsters with Sarah, daughter of former film censor, John Trevelyan. Boyle converted the building from a publishing house, in which he found piles of seamy books. He unearthed one letter requesting saucy material from a P. Sutcliffe. He laughed. After dinner, Boyle left alone into the night. His publishing editor from Canongate turned to me, and with genuine concern said: "Do you think he'll be alright?"

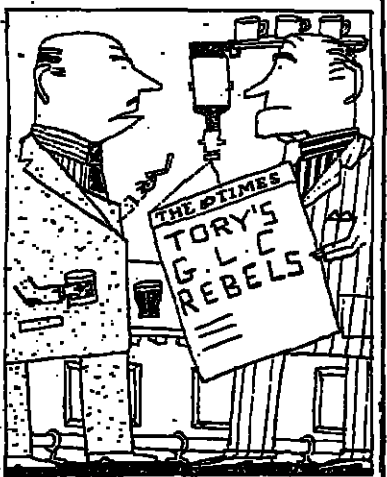
Look and yearn

Only an hour after suffering the ignominy of being upstaged and contradicted in the House by Edward Heath, the Environment Secretary, Patrick Jenkin, was to be found in the Tower of London addressing his new trustees - and wistfully eyeing the most formidable suit of armour he could find.

Cut deferred

Sir Roy Strong, director of the V & A, hopes to take an axe to the dozen cherry trees gracing the museum's courtyard. When planted 35 years ago, the trees were intended to hide the museum's Victorian architecture, then an embarrassment but now, post-Beyman, highly regarded and deserving a better view. Sir Roy wants to fell the lot all he needs is the money. Meanwhile, lunchtime sandwich eaters notice a Chekhovian air, the doomed beauty of the cherry blossom under the shadow of an inevitable revolution of taste.

BARRY FANTONI



"I don't know about Livingstone. It's certainly an achievement to raise public support for Ted Heath"

Deus ex machina

The Italians should brace themselves for the arrival of the Lincoln players who leave for Rome next Thursday to perform the Cycle of Mystery Plays during Holy Week. On a European tour last year, rehearsing the Crucifixion, Jesus was stranded on the cross after a bolt jammed, leaving the blood, concocted by a Lincoln chemist, dripping from a great height. They thought it would be alright on the night. It wasn't. When God should have made his entrance, to the crack of lightning, he was not to be seen. Three minutes later he was located: locked in the lavatory.

● The name plate identifying Freud's house in Vienna has been replaced. The new owner is called Kafka.

Private lives

The first issue of *The Royal Magazine* was launched yesterday with a pledge to respect the monarchy's privacy but then discloses how they let their "royal hair down". Princess Anne's secret craving, it says, is to ape Mrs Mopp. Her favourite play at family parties is to dress up as a charlady and go around dusting chairs and tables. We are also treated to a canine Burke's Peerage, complete with an illustrated corpi family tree. The Queen's eight corgis are all descended from Susan (b. 1944 d. 1959). Shadow, Myth, Fable, Smoke, Spark and Diamond are all "true blue". Piper and Chipper are "dorgis" - the result of Her Majesty mating two of her corgis with Princess Margaret's miniature longhaired dachshund Pipkin. The Queen "happily defies them when necessary."

Under observation

Rag week medical students at Charing Cross Hospital seem to have ignored the lesson of the last Guy's Hospital students' rag mag whose editors were threatened with prosecution because of its racist and sexist jokes. Harriet Harman, MP, acting for other outraged parties, submitted the mag to the DPP. Charing Cross Hospital protested at similar material in their students' rag mag. (Example: What's the difference between seduction and rape? - Patience). PHS

Edward Mortimer reports on new disclosures about the US-Israeli connexion



Eisenhower: forced Israel to back down over diverting the Jordan. Johnson: an attempted cover-up over Israel's attack on the Liberty

A one-way special relationship

One of the more undignified aspects of American election years is the competition invariably staged, before a bemused world audience, to see who can make the most absurd and extravagant promises of support for Israel. The most telling argument, it seems, that any candidate can produce is to suggest that his or her opponent's commitment to Israel is less than 100 per cent.

In New York in 1980 I even heard a candidate in the senatorial primary, Bess Myerson, attack her liberal rival, Elizabeth Holtzman, on the grounds that by seeking to curb overall US defence expenditure she was harming Israel, since "if we don't develop the weapons we won't have them to give to Israel." It was quite clear that anyone who suggested a limit to the amount of aid to Israel, or who urged that in return Israel be asked to take greater account of US views, would be committing instant political suicide.

One American who clearly has no political ambitions is Stephen Green, whose book *Taking Sides: American Secret Relations with a Militant Israel* is published next week by Faber and Faber. Approaching his subject from the position which apparently no American politician can afford to take, that of a disinterested citizen - he has used the Freedom of Information Act to try and find out how and why the US came to be so heavily committed to one side in an overseas conflict,

and what it has got in return. His findings include the following:

● In 1948-9 US intelligence reported large-scale Israeli arms imports from communist Czechoslovakia, as well as illegal recruiting of serving US armed forces personnel into the Israeli armed forces. These acts were regarded by US diplomats as thwarting American attempts to preserve the UN-imposed ceasefire and restrain Israel from taking more territory.

● The senior US military attaché in Israel in 1949 described the Israelis as "anxious to obtain a great deal in the way of American training and equipment, but...willing to give nothing in return".

● In the early and middle 1960s, an American company working for the US Atomic Energy Commission was, almost certainly, illegally diverting enriched uranium to Israel which was using it to develop nuclear weapons. This was facilitated by the AEC itself.

● In 1967 the Johnson administration was much more heavily involved on Israel's side in the Six Day War than has hitherto been known. In particular, it secretly lent US planes and air force personnel to Israel for reconnaissance. But when Israel attacked the US spy ship *Liberty*, killing 34 American servicemen, Johnson accepted the official Israeli apology for the "mistake" - which was certainly disingenuous -

and did all possible to prevent the full facts becoming known.

Green admits his book is "not a history of US-Israeli relations" but "a collection of historical vignettes that have been...carefully selected". But he says "much of what has been written on Israel in the West has been no less selective". He argues fairly consistently that Israel did not, in the period between 1948 and 1967, behave like an ally of the United States.

It is less clear what exactly he wants to say about American policy. US administrations generally are portrayed as being too soft on Israel, but he makes a partial exception for President Eisenhower.

He gets high marks for his firm reaction in 1953 to Israel's attempt to divert the Jordan in defiance of a US-sponsored scheme to share the water equitably between Israel and the Arab states.

What is unthinkable now actually happened then: aid to Israel was suspended, and Eisenhower instructed the Treasury Department to remove the tax-deductible status of contributions made to the United Jewish Appeal and to other Zionist organizations. He then rode out the Jewish storm and six weeks later Israel backed down.

On the other hand, Green faults the Eisenhower administration for failing even to police, let alone exploit, the more moderate Israeli approach to the conflict during the

prime ministership of Moshe Sharett in 1954, when Nasser too was interested in peace with Israel.

He also blames it for taking no action to head off the Suez War in 1956, arguing that it was luck rather than good management which enabled Eisenhower and Dulles to emerge from that affair with their "reputation in foreign affairs actually enhanced".

It was Johnson, in Green's view, who finally tipped the US wholesale into the Israeli camp. Certainly it is true that Johnson inaugurated the tradition of large-scale US arms supplies to Israel, and that this has made it harder for the US to pose to the Arabs as a benevolent neutral.

On the other hand it could be argued that this has given the US greater leverage over Israeli policy in the period since 1967, and that creative use was made of this particularly by Kissinger after 1973 and by Carter at Camp David. It is true, however, that the Reagan administration seems now to have given up any attempt to use it, and has virtually resigned itself to losing all credibility in the Arab world.

Green's book will not conclude the argument about US Middle East policy. But if he succeeds in starting an argument among the American public about what the US should expect from Israel in return for its support, he will have done a valuable service to his country and to the Middle East, including Israel.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

No, Jesus will survive even jesting Jeremy

scandalum magnatum, but because of the almost unbelievable awfulness of the programme as television. There was no known cliché, verbal or visual, that was omitted; my favourite was the reference to the nineteenth century biblical scholar David Strauss, who was dismissed from his teaching post for his writings. As the sepulchral tones of the presenter said "dismissed", there was a thump, and a stamp fell diagonally across the screen, exactly like "Con gain from Lab" on election night, reading DISMISSED: so help me, they did it again 10 minutes later, when we were told of two Catholic scholars who were excommunicated because of their arguments: another thump, and up comes "Lib hold" EXCOMMUNICATED.

The "historical reconstructions" were wonderfully, memorably, funny. Luther, for instance, is seen nailing his theses to the church door. Bang, bang, bang, and he turns away and strides purposefully into the camera; behind him, a monk puts his head out, presumably expecting the laundry, and is puzzled to find nothing but a petition against recapping. The problem of Albert Schweitzer and Rudolf Bultmann, which was that they were foreigners and died therefore be expected to talk foreign, was solved in the traditional way: they talked English, but with "we have ways of making bloody dreadful programmes accented, though those were nothing to the two comic Egyptians who found the Oxyrhynchus papyrus in a cave and jabbered over them with so uncannily lifelike an impersonation of the late Peter Sellers playing two comic Egyptians that millions of viewers must have been instantly converted to a belief in the Resurrection if nothing else.

I take it, however, that the makers of the programme (London Weekend) did not intend it to be judged as a contribution to the art of television. Presumably, they intended a serious investigation of who and what (if anyone or

anything) Christ was; based on the available historical evidence tested by the methods that would be used by anyone seeking the identity and character of, say, Homer or Tamburlaine. And at this point I must insist that Mr Isaacs should be snatched from the stake just as the fire is being kindled: the fright will be quite enough to punish him for the television, and he deserves no punishment at all for the theology, though as a matter of fact it was as clumsy and insubstantial as the television itself.

I had better make my usual disclaimer before continuing: I am not a Christian, and I realise that I meddle with Christian matters at my peril. All the same, I don't suppose anyone, of any denomination or none, would have watched the programme without reflecting on the nature and witness of the central figure, and such reflections on my part lead first of all to the conclusion that those Christians who protested in advance about the very making of the television series, let alone its content, must have a very pessimistic notion of the strength of the case for the defence.

Let us suppose that, sooner or later, incontrovertible evidence should turn up which proves the most disintegrative thesis about the historical Jesus: so that Christians can no longer support the case for a miracle-working, Redeemer or a Son of God. What would Christianity have lost, and what would it retain? To answer those questions, answer another: how has Christianity, with its human-divine centre, survived for 20 centuries, despite persecution, deviation, institutionalization, fragmentation and even the New English Bible? The answer, surely, is that Christianity has seized upon a massive truth about man and his relations with the universe, which truth, though it is crystallized around and symbolized by the particular figure whose name it bears, is yet ultimately independent thereof.

Come, let us be particular.

Convince Beethoven that Christ was not the Messiah, that indeed there is and will be no Messiah. Then put the manuscript score of the *Missa Solemnis* into his hands, telling him that he will now no doubt want to tear it up, starting with the *Et resurrexit*. When he has stopped laughing and sent you about your business, do not be disheartened: try the same technique on Mathias Grünewald, standing in front of the Isenheim Altar at Colmar. If there was no Christ, it follows that St Antony could not have been sustained by the Christian faith in his hour of trial: will not the artist therefore wish to paint out the figures in the picture as it is now, and replace them by, say, a group portrait of the Executive Committee of the National Secular Society? I think his answer would be much the same as Beethoven's.

We do not have to think of Thomas More, going to the scaffold for disavowing divorce, of all things (*nous avons changé tout cela*) for I, at any rate, can think of that merry Christian gentleman Father Corbishley, with whom I used to find myself, from time to time, on television and radio programmes, or that other merry fellow Lord Soper (who once rather pertinently observed that before regarding all men as his brothers he would rather like to be sure that they had the same Father), or that fiery man Donald Reeves, struggling day and night to make his fashionable church (St James Piccadilly) unfashionable, or Archbishop Joost de Blank, or Alexander Solzhenitsyn, or that Rock of Ages Dr Beyers Naude: devilish difficult it would be to convince any of these that the Christ of the Gospels was part human, part mythological and part mushroom, but I cannot see any of them, should they in the end be convinced of it, transferring their allegiance to M. Shintre or M. Sinaut.

Once upon a time, the makers of such television programmes would have been DISMISSED or EXCOMMUNICATED, or WORSE. It is good that that no longer happens, and it is certainly not bad that the programmes should be made and shown. And I think that Christ will somehow survive them and the people who protest at them alike. For two millennia that figure has inspired, provoked, worried, bewildered, purified, resisted to evil, loved, courage, sacrifice, art and love. However many comic Egyptians find however many ancient manuscripts in however many caves, I think Christians can count on at least another two millennia of the same inspiration.

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David Watt

Putting a gloss on the tarnish

Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, the American Ambassador to the United Nations, is a lady of formidable personality and an unexpected, doty kind of charm - a sort of right-wing cross, not much softened by the amalgamation, between Eleanor Roosevelt and Katharine Hepburn. Listening to her apology for the foreign policy of the Reagan Administration at Chatham House this week, I could see why she has survived in the jungle of Washington and indeed why she has seen off a number of powerful opponents, including Alexander Haig, the former Secretary of State.

Her basic argument this week was simple. She complained that a fundamental error was abroad, that people did not recognize the moral superiority of the United States over the Soviet Union but put them on the same footing. This, she said, was a monstrous calumny. American society was free and democratic; the Soviet Union was closed and tyrannical. The United States was bringing liberation to oppressed or potentially oppressed peoples; the Soviet Union was trying to impose a permanent slavery upon them.

It was the blindness of the allies to these truths that caused so much annoyance to Americans. She emphasized that there was no intention to withdraw troops from Europe, but there was a rising tide of discussion about the basic assumptions of the alliance, and who could tell where it would all end?

This delicate threat asked, what are we to make of the whole moral argument? If it were true, of course, it would certainly be the end of the alliance sooner or later. The Europeans, as a hundred thousand cliché-ridden speeches in the past 40 years have pointed out, are supposed to share with the United States a belief in democracy and a dislike of the prospect of living under a totalitarian regime; and if that were not so, there is no reason why Europeans should not go over to the stronger or the geographically closer alternative.

But manifestly this is not the problem. Apart from a tiny minority, the European consensus on these fundamentals remains as solid as ever, among the young even more than the middle-aged or old. I have met no more than a handful of people in my life who have honestly said they would rather live in Russia than America.

The difficulty is not, therefore, about ends but about means. The basic charge which is brought against the United States by the people whom Mrs Kirkpatrick is inveighing against is not, as she alleges, that American and Soviet aims and societies are on the same level. It is precisely that America pollutes its own ideals and laments promoting them that are often more or less indistinguishable from those which its totalitarian opponent uses to spread its own degraded values. The United States under present management, they say, is prepared to support governments that are quite as oppressive as those of Eastern Europe; to invade Grenada or subvert Nicaragua with as little respect for legality as the Russians have shown in Afghanistan; and to take as many nuclear risks with the future of humanity as the generals in the Kremlin.

The Kirkpatrick defence partially recognizes the force of these criticisms by shifting, at this point in the argument, on to the critics' ground. She insists on the distinction between the way the United States goes about its task and the way the Russians export communism. For instance, the Russians are

still in Afghanistan while the Americans are out of Grenada. The United States, unlike the Soviet Union, gives aid to Third World countries which do not agree with American policies, and has promoted genuine democratic elections in El Salvador, and so forth.

All true enough, up to a point, but in most cases it is hopelessly unconvincing as a moral argument. From a purely moral point of view it must be wrong to back the Guatemala regime. The mining of Nicaraguan waters cannot seriously be defended in international law. The "invitation" to invade Grenada



Jeane Kirkpatrick: on to a hopeless loser

was, if we are honest about it, a fig-leaf. Even the ethics of nuclear deterrence are, as the Church of England has discovered, extremely complicated.

In short, when Mrs Kirkpatrick claims a satisfactory moral basis for all American actions she is on a hopeless loser. The only possible defence for some of them must be on a quite different line: "Yes, it is wrong, but it is necessary." Simply, "the end justifies the means".

This is not such a bad argument, after all. The actions of the Reagan administration in Central America that are the present focus of condemnation represent its frantic struggle to escape from an intolerably difficult situation in which all the options have some morally objectionable aspects. At its worst it could mean an influx of many millions of Mexicans into the southern United States.

Some sympathetic understanding of this is called for. All governments are obliged from time to time to appeal to the dictum that the safety of the country is the supreme law, and to accept Horace Walpole's observation: "No great country was ever saved by good men, because good men will not go to the lengths that may be necessary."

The trouble is that it is characteristic of Americans that they are not prepared to abandon hypocrisy and embrace this argument. The whole rhetoric of the republic since its foundation has been against *realpolitik*. The United States must be pure in deed as well as in intention.

But nor is it as prepared these days as it used to be to bring its policies into line with its stated aspirations.

This, as I say, is understandable. But it is a dangerous position to be in for any length of time, for it anesthetizes its authors to the undesirability, in principle, of compromising the morals. I cannot believe that Mrs Kirkpatrick really thinks that everything the United States does is above board, but it is clear that having said so for so long she is half way to convincing herself.

Philip Howard

Dear whomever it may be

Thank heavens for our correspondents, bless their little cotton socks. (In parenthesis, I puzzle about the origin of those cotton socks. The sage Partridge classifies them as a middle-class catch-phrase, in full, "Bless your little heart and cotton socks", and observes that the phrase is always benevolent, but never exceeds affection. But whence the socks, and wherefore? I think we should be told. End of parenthesis.)

As we were saying, before we were rudely interrupted by an inter-pollation, thank heavens for our correspondents. Their letters constitute the best page in *The Times*, and they write them without payment. "No man but a blockhead ever wrote, except for money" - Samuel. Answering letters takes up to three hours of the Literary Editor's day, when he could otherwise be occupied in such lesser activities as reading and writing. "I have received no more than one or two letters in my life that were worth the postage" - Thoreau.

Let us not whinge. I have met good friends, been given good ideas for articles, and received entertainment, instruction and correction through the post. If you are daft enough to write an occasional series called *New Words for Old* in the public prints, every time you commit a solecism or a misprint, as will happen to the best regulated backs, you must expect a bag of mail glowing: "Yah, boob! Physician, heal thyself." I never see myself as a physician, more a reporter of language.

But of all the vexations that are vexed in this vexing world - though the vexation, loonies, who telephone on Wednesday mornings to ascertain the title of a book of which they have forgotten the author and publisher, but they are sure it was about spies, and it was reviewed in *The Times*, or maybe it was the *Telegraph*, some time in the

past nine months, may be the worst - the vexation of the illegible signature is the most tormenting.

I have no problem with heavily underlined letters in green ink informing me about God or the authorship of Shakespeare. We have a file for such things. But there is a regular problem with sensible letters, that deserve an answer, but carry a signature as if the end that gives no clue to the correspondent's name, or even gender. I have dropped terrible rudely in my time, by addressing formidable and distinguished old ladies as "Mr Squiggle". I have tried cutting out the autograph and pasting it after the "Dear" - at the top of the letter, then addressing the envelope to "The Occupier". It is usually safest to take refuge in a diplomatic lie: "Dear Sir, or Madam, I am terribly sorry to be so ambiguous about your gender, but I have lost my contact lenses, and am having trouble deciphering even such striking handwriting as yours."

After several years dealing with this nuisance, I put forward the following caenographic axioms:

1. The worse the hand, the grander the writer. If you get a hand that looks as though it were written with a foot, you can be pretty sure that it belongs to the House of Lords.
2. The chirographic identification of gender by handwriting - small, round, regularly formed equals woman; angular, sloping, pointed equals man - is as much bunkum as phrenology or eugenics.
3. It is impossible to offend an Englishman, or maybe an Englishwoman, more than by misreading her, or is it his, handwriting. There with the worst handwriting are the most offended.

Penitent Nixon on a TV comeback trail

New York. Almost 10 years after he resigned the presidency, Richard Nixon is appearing on television this week recounting his life and times as part of his campaign to rehabilitate himself. It is a curious spectacle, and millions of Americans are engrossed in it.

At 71 Nixon is rather more jowly than when he left the White House for the last time, his wife saying "It's so sad, it's so sad." Otherwise he has not changed much physically, and in other respects seems to be the same old Nixon.

He sits in a leather armchair and, prompted by a friendly interviewer - Frank Gannon, one of his former aides - ranges over Watergate, his acrimonious relationship with the press, his meetings with foreign leaders, the nature of his marriage. He relates little that is new and it is possible that the interviews will do little more than confirm admirers and haters in their opinions.

Nixon's objective is to have himself and his record reconsidered.

He is saying that there is more to Richard Nixon than Watergate, corruption and plot. But it is not only posterity that he has in mind. He still hopes there may be some sort of role for him, that his experience in the presidency, and as a practitioner of foreign policy at the highest level, may be thought of value, that he may yet serve.

Apart from the television interviews, the strategy includes more public speaking, writing and appearances. CBS News paid £357,000 for three half-hour videotape segments distilled from 38 hours of conversation. Nixon gets an undisclosed share of the fee.

Newspapers have attacked CBS for "chequebook journalism" and because Nixon is not subjected to the stringent questioning more usual in news programmes. But CBS retorts that the papers are hypocritical and that Nixon is good TV.

Clearly the spectacle of the only American president ever forced to

resign explaining himself on prime-time television is of considerable interest. He talks of Watergate - "illegal, wrong and very stupid" - and of the cover-up - "stupidity at its very highest." Asked if he would apologize for Watergate, he says: "There is no way you could apologize that is more eloquent, more decisive, or to say you are sorry, which would exceed resigning the presidency. That said it all."

He says his obsession with secrecy was "paranoia" that he was "almost a basket-case with regard to secrecy" (as was) Kissinger.

Nixon denies that he has been a loveless marriage, kept up only for political and social appearances. He is scornful of "people sobbing 'I love her'", and says that he and Mrs Nixon have never been "public kisses".

He says newspapermen called his wife "Plastic Face" simply because she was his wife. "If she had been the wife of a liberal, my God, they would have canonized her."

His resentment of the press is barely beneath the surface, and he says his fights with it were legendary. He adds that he did not mind journalists examining him with a microscope, "but when they use a microscope (a device for examination via the anus) that's going too far."

The interviews provide Nixon with a comfortable and informal means of filling out some of the details of his presidency and downfall, of putting his side of things, and of swiping at his critics.

It may be the fault of those who extracted a mere 90 minutes from 38 hours of conversation, but there is a lack of substance, no real insight into the processes of power, of great issues and events. In any case, the stain of Watergate is always there.

There is a certain grubbiness, too, like the little-tale about Brezhnev's "full-bodied Russian massage". Such stories from other lips might emerge as amiable gossip; from Nixon's they are close to smuggers.

Trevor Fishlock

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CRACKS IN THE PAVING

Wednesday's broadside against the Government front bench was the most effective Mr Heath has yet delivered from his position of prime minister-in-exile below the gangway. The issue was the transitional arrangements the Government proposes for London and the metropolitan counties preparatory to the abolition of the upper-tier authorities planned for the spring of 1986. The ground is narrow, but the Government's chosen dispositions render it exceedingly vulnerable. They are also symptomatic of the way it grapples with local government reform, which is to legislate in haste cutting out the usual preamble of the taking of evidence, independent and public evaluation, and modification in the light of discussion. This let's-get-on-with-it approach suits the Thatcher style, but when addressed to elected public corporations it smacks of high-handedness and looks like ill-prepared improvisation.

The debate on the paving legislation was noisy but it made some things clear. One is that there is good precedent for cancelling elections to local authorities that are doomed to extinction having been due to take place. So it was when London government was reformed in 1963 and local government elsewhere in England and Wales in 1972. Rhetoric about the death of democracy aimed in that direction falls wide of the mark.

Equally, there is no precedent for the substitution of a nominated council for an elected council during the transitional months, as the Bill proposes. *A fortiori* there is no precedent for effecting a change of political control by that means. That was the point Mr Heath rightly seized on. "Worst of all is the imposition by parliamentary diktat of a change of responsible party in London government. There cannot be any justification for that." The right course was to extend the life of the expiring councils for eleven months. Ministers had played it in such a way as to achieve the impossible, the mobilization of the majority of public opinion in London behind Mr Kenneth Livingstone.

Mr Jenkin and Mr Waldegrave replied that there was no precedent for their proposal because there was no precedent for the situation their proposal was tailored to fit. For the first time in a scheme of local government reform, there are already in existence the authorities to which the functions of the doomed authorities will be transferred. Therefore ministers had a choice of filling in with the present councils or filling in with nominees from the successor councils. They made the wrong choice because they fear, with some reason, obstruction if not frustration of the transfer by the councillors who are being unhorsed. It is the wrong choice because a change of party control of an elected body by fiat is more

to be avoided than the inconvenience or odium of assuming whatever temporary powers are thought necessary to make obstruction nugatory.

The committee stage of the Bill is to be taken on the floor of the House. Many would be pleased to see a tactical alliance formed there strong enough to oblige the Government to accept amendment of the Bill, to extend for eleven months the life of the present councils rather than supplant them with nominees.

Mr Jenkin speaks of chaos and confusion if matters are left in their hands for that extra few months. Perhaps he exaggerates the scope for mischief. His own Bill places special restraints and requirements on the transitional councils. Rate capping will be in place. The sense of responsibility of chief officers can be relied on. The audit commission can be alerted to a situation where "reasonableness" of expenditure will take on a new meaning from the imminence of the council's demise. But if Mr Jenkin still does not feel safe he can ask Parliament to add to his Bill a temporary requirement that such powers as borrowing for current purposes and disposal of assets be used only with the consent of the Secretary of State; and that these councils' blatant political advertising to save their skin ceases as soon as their mandated life expires in May of next year, if the audit has not by then struck it down as illegal.

TIME TO CLOSE THE OMAN FILE

Responsible leaders of the Labour Party are quite sure, and privately admit, that Mrs Thatcher's hands are absolutely clean in the matter of the Oman contract. Yet the front bench has remained silent as some of its backbenchers have pursued their campaign to suggest that the Prime Minister has somehow behaved inappropriately in the matter. The Shadow Cabinet wash their hands of it, apparently on the grounds that this sort of thing is an inevitable manifestation of politics, reassuring themselves with the thought that they would suffer the same treatment from the Tories if there were any chance of their being embarrassed in some similar way.

Indeed, at an earlier stage, Mr Peter Shore, Labour's spokesman on Trade and Industry, had the full support of his colleagues when he was bombarding the Prime Minister with a barrage of "have-you-stopped-beating-your-wife" questions and insinuations in a series of letters earlier this year, which went well beyond the legitimate attempt he was making to seek information. It has been plain throughout that if there is any political capital to be made from this episode, the Labour leadership is happy to accept it.

It is clear with hindsight, and perhaps should have been clear to Mrs Thatcher with foresight, that when her son, Mr Mark Thatcher, arrived in Oman at the same time as she did in 1981 it would probably have been sensible for her to suggest that he should leave. Since he was a consultant to Cementation,

which succeeded in getting a major contract from the Oman government, it would have been better for everyone else had he not been in Oman when the Prime Minister was quite properly encouraging the Oman government to buy British.

Of course, since Mr Thatcher was a free agent who was entitled to pursue his work as he chose there was no way of ensuring his departure if he had chosen not to go. Still, it is important that public figures should not, if they can help it, allow themselves to be put in a position in which an interaction of public and private interests can be suspected or (as in this case) exploited. Given that Mr Thatcher had been present in Oman at the same time as his mother then, when the matter became one of public controversy this year, the Prime Minister would have been better advised to have made a simple statement at once explaining the facts and giving an assurance that there had been no kind of impropriety.

It is easy to understand why she chose instead to confine herself initially to the statement that she was simply baffling for Britain (though she has since amplified this). She rightly did not wish to seem to be assuming responsibility for her son's business life, beside which any explanation she gave could have been used as an excuse for further pressure. Still, Labour leaders argue that such a statement would have closed the matter, and perhaps it would.

The House of Commons Select Committee on Members' Interests has now twice rejected

complaints that Mrs Thatcher should have declared her interest in the Cementation contract. It has made quite clear that MPs are not required to register the interests of spouses or members of their families, but only their own. With the publication of the Select Committee's second rejection yesterday, the complaining Labour Member, Mr Dale Campbell-Savours succeeded in having published, under privilege, his own case setting out fifteen "facts" and arguing that "incomparable and irresistible inferences to be drawn from them." The facts are essentially those which have already had publication in one form or another; his inferences include the statement that "the Prime Minister was consciously and deliberately advancing her son's interests," as well as those of Britain and Cementation. That is not the opinion of the majority of the Committee, and it seems not to be that of the Labour front-bench. Having had his say, therefore, Mr Campbell-Savours should rest content with it.

If there are black marks against Mr Mark Thatcher for not being more considerate and thoughtful in relation to his mother and against Mrs Thatcher for not being politically sensitive enough at the outset in handling this matter in parliament, the blackest mark is to the Labour MPs who persisted in trying to make political capital out of it. Mr Kinnock would be wise to advise them that in everyone's interest it is time for the Oman file to be closed and for what has increasingly looked like a vendetta to be ended.

SHORT, SHARP POLICY SHOCK

Mr Brittan's debut as Home Secretary during the debate on capital punishment last year gave the game away. A hard man he may have been as Chief Secretary to the Treasury, dry he may be in Cabinet debates but on matters of penal policy and criminal justice, he is, like most of his predecessors in office, a dogged empiricist. After nine months at the Home Office he emerges as a man of liberal mien with an enthusiasm for cost effectiveness. Not for him iconoclasm about traditional penal institutions nor difficult questions of policy (what are prisons for if they do not deter?) nor philosophic radicalism of a kind that might have tempted him to review some of the collectivist, "therapeutic" assumptions behind, say, the Children and Young Persons Act.

"Nakedly retributive" declared the Howard League on behalf of the penal liberals when Mr Brittan appeared at the Conservatives' party conference to announce - at last - determinate sentences for the most serious homicides. But since then the vocabulary has altered: no more retribution; scant reference even to deterrence. The phrases in Queen Anne's Gate are balance, control, making the system work. Indeed that has been Mr Brittan's object. While making scaring noises about the withdrawal of parole for certain offences the bulk of his decisions have had to do with

effective management. His well-won expansion of prison building has been matched by sincere efforts to reduce the use of custody, by means of community service orders and weekend sentences. Meanwhile he and his department have sat back, not unhappily, while the courts and the pressure groups have made the running on changes in the prison regime which seek to codify prisoners' rights, among them rights to legal representation.

The speech he gave on Wednesday to magistrates in Portsmouth was in tenor. For the most part Mr Brittan could have passed for his predecessor; he bewailed delays in bringing cases to trial; dilated upon alternatives to custody; talked (rightly enough) of deprivation of liberty as a last resort. Yet there were also hints of toughness, at least enough to make a casual viewer of the television news the other night think Mr Brittan was on the balk: the "short, sharp shock" regime was apparently to be extended, without waiting for his own internal review of the experiment. An empiricist no longer, it seemed.

Playing to the gallery, if that was what Mr Brittan was doing, does not make for considered or convincing penal policy. To extend the regime like this is to ignore a negative report from the Chief Inspector of Prisons, disillusionment among prison

staff (not in itself a reliable guide), and the absence of any evidence about less recidivism among those shocked and sharpened. Mr Brittan apparently set on one side an even more telling point. The figures from magistrates' courts suggest a shift away from detention centre orders towards youth custody - *ci-devant* borstal. That raises the possibility that magistrates are avoiding the brisk and disciplined regimes for some unknown but important set of reasons.

Mr Brittan should be clear. The ethos of the detention centres with the "tougher regime" may be - is - appealing because it satisfies a quite proper public instinct. But that has nothing to do with training capacity or any of the other rehabilitative fantasies entertained by some; this type of regime, whatever its virtues, looks to be no more effective in deterring crime or reducing recidivism than any other. Perhaps instead of gently edging away from the issues raised in the debates of last summer, Mr Brittan might look again. The public needs guidance on penal matters not palliation. Perhaps Mr Brittan should say: the purpose of juvenile custody, for serious offences, is to punish; if it also rehabilitates then that is a bonus. Let that principle guide the length of sentences rather than the nature, real or imagined, of the prison regime.

The greening of derelict land

From Mr David Howell, MP for Guildford (Conservative)

Sir, I am glad that Ferdinand Mount (feature, April 9) has joined the ranks of those in favour of a bit more spending on public works and I do not mind which of the many justifications for more action on this front he uses.

As he says, "the Government - and in particular the Treasury - is profoundly out of step with public opinion" on this issue.

Shouting "Humber Bridge" or "Concorde" really is no argument at all against getting ahead now with the infrastructure spending, the urban transport facilities (particularly in London) and the greening of derelict industrial areas which the Government's finances (and the capital markets) could well withstand and the under-employed construction sector could readily undertake without extra pressure on either inflation or interest rates.

There is no conflict at all in this with the imperatives of the social market economy. Nor need there be the head-on conflict with rural England which some people - including, I think, Mr Mount - fear.

A tendency persists to underestimate the potential for a vast, and green and pleasant, new city (or set of towns and villages) in the eastern half of London and to overlook the colossal acreage in cities still occupied by railway yards, disused gasworks and the like.

We could end up, if we are clever, with more green land, not less, as well as more homes. But the infrastructure necessary to underpin this prospect should be going into place now.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HOWELL,
House of Commons.
April 9.

Social security net

From the Reverend Roy C. Allison

Sir, The social security system is at minimum a net to catch those who fall below an agreed poverty line. Its appeal procedure enables those who believe themselves to have been unfairly treated to have the benefit of a second opinion.

Administratively this appears to be very good - but it is totally inadequate for anyone who needs to appeal because they haven't even the money to buy food.

Two of the many people who have sought my advice recently have been in this position. One had received no benefit at all for several weeks because of an administrative error. Another - a woman with a 16-year-old son - spent this last weekend with nothing to eat after breakfast (except for a bag of chips and a bread roll provided by neighbours) because the supplementary benefit office had not sent the money which was due to them.

Each of these people would have continued without money and/or food if strong representation had not been made to the DHSS office concerned.

It is accepted that everyone can make mistakes, but mistakes by the DHSS in circumstances such as these can cause women and children to go hungry.

Surely an additional independent immediate referral procedure must be introduced so that those facing hunger and deprivation as a result of administrative errors can find immediate assistance - even if its only power is to send the local supplementary benefit office to look again at an applicant's claim.

Yours sincerely,
ROY C. ALLISON,
Bristol Methodist Mission,
Central Hall,
Old Market Street,
Bristol, Avon.
March 27.

Cutting and running?

From Mr Michael Boyden

Sir, What shall we make of a nation which at one moment, amid public furore, uproots and exiles a family, whose children are British citizens, but where the parents have outstayed their welcome and then proceeds in unceremonious fashion to grant citizenship to a 17-year-old, 5,000 metre runner within 10 days of her application?

The only logical deduction - and by this shall they be judged - is that the Home Office is more interested in gold medals at the Olympics than in the plight of a miserable family, whose only crime was to have wanted to remain in Great Britain.

I remain, yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BOYDEN,
22 Carlton Road,
Hale, Cheshire.
April 10.

Funding youth training

From the Bishop of Liverpool

Sir, In your leader (March 31) about Liverpool City Council's failure to make a rate you say that "Mr Jenkin has said he can do nothing singular. But there is regional discretion in other ministerial briefs, notably through the Manpower Services Commission".

I wish I had more confidence that this was true. But as chairman of the MSC Area Manpower Board for Merseyside I have recently found little or no regional discretion in arguing our case against very rigid cuts in the industry ministers responsible for MSC.

The Community Programme, which offers £60 a week average for long-term unemployed, makes a very small-scale contribution. Merseyside has 139,000 unemployed, 77,000 long-term unemployed in MCS's terms (unemployed for 12 months). The Community Programme offers 6,651 places for 12 months only.

Another figure is unknown, namely the number unemployed for five years or 10 years. I believe that to be a very substantial number here.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Power struggle in Central America

From Mr Frank Griffith Dawson

Sir, On April 10 *The Times* reported that the US Department of State had explained that rejection of the International Court of Justice's jurisdiction over disputes involving Central America was necessary to prevent Nicaragua from converting the court into "a big propaganda forum". Your April 11 leader apparently accepted this explanation, although you rightly questioned its wisdom.

As anyone who has ever attended the court can attest, the four sets of lengthy written pleadings which litigants are allowed to present, the court's rules and standards of procedure and the formal, austere environment in which oral pleadings are heard combine to drain even highly contentious issues, such as the introduction of apartheid into South West Africa, of their immediate emotional impact.

Journalists and courtroom spectators find little or no sensational material or "propaganda" to report. Fears of a Perry Mason style judicial circus at The Hague are therefore baseless and one wonders if the US action might not have been dictated instead by apprehensions of an adverse decision.

The apparent lack of confidence by the United States in the court's impartiality contrasts sharply with Nicaragua's traditional attitude. In 1904 a long-standing boundary dispute between Honduras and Nicaragua was submitted to arbitration by Spain's King Alfonso XIII.

who, two years later, decided that the border between the two nations should coincide with the Rio Coco, the present frontier. Nicaragua at first accepted the award but subsequently claimed it had been improperly rendered and was too confusing to be put into effect.

After several armed clashes in the disputed area, in 1958 the two countries, which had already accepted the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice, formally agreed to submit this specific dispute to its adjudication. Nicaragua at The Hague argued *inter alia* that the arbitral award was void because the king had exceeded his jurisdiction and had not given adequate reasons for his decision. The court disagreed and found for Honduras, thereby upholding the validity of the boundaries fixed in 1906.

Successive Nicaraguan governments, including the Sandinistas, have abided by the court's decision even though the court lacks the

physical power to enforce its judgment and must rely for compliance upon moral suasion and public opinion.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK GRIFFITH DAWSON,
Wolfson College, Cambridge.
April 12.

From Mr J. W. Wolonicki

Sir, Any approach to foreign policy which necessitates the asking of such questions as "The superpowers - is there a moral difference?" is misconceived. The critical question to be posed in superpower relations is "coexistence or coextermination?" If one feels the need to superimpose a moral equation upon the conduct of foreign policy, it can only be utilitarian: whatever maintains the existing balance of power and discourages nuclear war is good.

No doubt the "Brezhnev-Reagan doctrine" of superpower intervention in their respective spheres of influence violates the United Nations Charter and offends against the principle of sovereign equality of states, but international law must reflect the reality of international relations and I defy anyone to read today the mercenary preamble of the Charter without shuddering.

What matters in this game is that each side reacts predictably to perceived threats to its security, any failure to react may be interpreted as a sign of weakness which could encourage the other side to behave in a highly dangerous manner.

Looked at from this point of view, it is quite irrelevant whether United States policy in Central America is motivated by a desire to promote democracy or to protect the interests of United States investors. The only material question is what is the likely response of the Soviet Union.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. WOLONICKI,
Queens' College, Cambridge.
April 11.

From Mr Graham Greene, CH

Sir, Your report from Washington in *The Times* of April 5 is headed "Four states backing terror, Shultz says." Mr Shultz's arithmetic is a little at fault. I would add at least a fifth Power - the United States under President Reagan, which is aiding the death squads in El Salvador and the Contras, who include the relics of Somoza's National Guard, on the borders of Nicaragua.

Yours truly,
GRAHAM GREENE,
06600 Antibes, France.
April 5.

The Tisdall appeal

From Mr L. Norman Williams

Sir, The words that the Provost of King's College, Cambridge (April 12) places within quotation marks as being a report - unattributed; not in *The Times* - of what the Lord Chief Justice said in refusing Miss Sarah Tisdall leave to appeal bear no, or very little, relation to what was said in court.

The words used by the Lord Chief Justice, as noted by me in court, were:

"The fact that an individual disapproves of the law or thinks that it is unreasonable for him or her to have to obey it does not mean that that individual will escape prosecution or if convicted will escape punishment. People who believe in obeying the law only when it conforms to what they consider to be their own special interests must be reminded that they are misguided. It is dangerous arrogance for anyone, be they Foreign Office clerk or national newspaper, to presume to decide which laws they are obliged to observe and which they are not."

The Provost may be said to have written from false premises. Miss Tisdall's sentence results from her conviction for breach of trust and her oath, not her convictions, whatever they may be.

Yours faithfully,
L. NORMAN WILLIAMS,
Room 716,
Royal Courts of Justice,
Strand, WC2.
April 12.

Voice of experience

From Mr J. E. Whetton

Sir, Your correspondent, Mrs A. G. Lynne, asks (April 9) "is this really a British record of yet another long-serving church chorister?"

The answer, I'm afraid, is No Mr Walter Shepherd, of 5 Welbeck Road, Doncaster, has sung in the choir of St John's Church, Balby, since the age of seven, and he is now 94 (not out).

Yours faithfully,
J. E. WHETTTON (Organist and choir-master, St John's Church, Balby),
186 Ticklehill Road,
Balby,
Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

Equally damaging is the blow to trust and good will, without which there would be no programme. We are currently closing 12 projects and cutting many more. All of these have been encouraged by us in good faith to believe that the emphasis in this first year of YTS was to be on improving the quality of training.

These cutbacks in YTS came only three months after a freeze was suddenly imposed on recruiting for the Community Programme. That froze for a period of up to six months over 2,000 places already agreed by my board.

As with cuts to local government, the effect is that moderate-minded men and women who work their heart out for people's needs in cities like Liverpool have their capacity to deliver the goods seriously weakened. No one should be surprised that some of those who face long-term deprivation should then turn to more extreme policies of confrontation.

Yours, etc,
DAVID LIVERPOOL,
Church House,
1 Hanover Street,
Liverpool.
April 6.

'Evening Post' and trade unions

From Mr C. G. Pole-Carew

Sir, In yesterday's edition of your newspaper (April 11) you published an "open letter" by Mr Phillip Whitehead which makes false accusations against my company and myself in connection with Mr David Dimbleby's decision to transfer the printing of his newspapers to one of our subsidiaries, TBF (Printers) Ltd. I would be most grateful if I might be allowed this one opportunity to correct the record, which has been wrongly stated so many times in so many papers.

We did not drive NUJ members out of the *Nottingham Evening Post* six years ago: 28 (out of 93) of our journalists, and less than half the NUJ membership, went on strike on the orders of their national executive for a wage increase of a sum which was roughly £1,000 per week less than they were currently earning.

Having broken their contracts of employment for such a crazy reason they were deemed no longer to work for us. The majority who continued to work were all summarily expelled from the NUJ.

I have never made the statement that I "always do my best to discredit and humiliate union officials", nor "make them stand throughout discussions", nor "continue meetings until they have missed their last train to London".

True, I gave a talk to the management of a newspaper when I advised them of the awfulness and violence that they could expect from union sources if they insisted, like us, on managing properly (they decided not to) and to be prepared in effect to play the unions at their own game. This is very far, though, from the blanket accusations Mr Whitehead levels against me.

In his final paragraph he says that the right of association is coming under threat from us. Yet of the six unions in our industry two have 100 per cent, two more substantial membership, whilst the remainder, the NUJ and NGA, have none because they - not us - have withdrawn membership from our staff.

The NUJ is a very vocal union but spokesmen should take care not to overstretch the truth.

We are a very technically advanced group of companies, generating above-average profits and wages, handling increasing work and expanding our workforce. The "burghers of Nottingham" know this: what does Mr Whitehead find grubby about it? Can it be that a union has been thwarted in driving Mr Dimbleby's papers out of business?

Yours etc,
CHRISTOPHER POLE-CAREW,
Managing Director,
Forman Hardy Holdings Ltd,
Forman Street,
Nottingham.
April 12.

From Mr David Dimbleby
Sir, When the NUJ first complained about our printing our Richmond newspapers at Nottingham we asked them for a list of alternative printers who could guarantee production, despite our two-month-old dispute with the NGA.

They suggested five companies. We contacted each and each refused to take on the work. In the six months since then they have not put forward any further names, which suggests that there is at present no alternative in this country to TBF (Printers) Ltd, of Nottingham.

Much as Mr Whitehead (feature, April 11) may huff and puff, he must recognise that it is not wilfulness or perversity that keeps us at Nottingham, but an instinct for survival.

He might be more fruitfully engaged trying to persuade the executive of his union, the NUJ, that having fought their battle with us through the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords they should now accept the decision of those courts; that the secondary action they have taken against us is illegal and must come to an end. Or does Mr Whitehead believe that the law should only be obeyed when it finds in your favour?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID DIMBLEBY,
Richmond and Twickenham Times,
14 King Street,
Richmond,
Surrey.
April 12.

Putting oneself forward

From Mr Christopher Billson

Sir, Sir Francis Avery Jones must surely be right in stating (April 9) that an Englishman prefers a low profile, but the reason why he wears his name badge at conferences in his left-hand lapel, I would respectfully suggest, has nothing to do with anonymity. If this were the case, he would dispense with the damn thing altogether.

No Sir, the reason is quite clear: Most of us wear our occasional buttonhole, regatta or Wimbledon badge where one's tailor provides. Just imagine the contortions that right-handers would endure for right-hand lapel attachment.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER BILLSON,
Dunston Park,
Shoreham-by-Sevenoaks,
Kent.
April 9.

From the Reverend Eric Thacker
Sir, At conferences, particularly those involving many clergymen, I have occasionally taken to wearing my name badge, not only on the left lapel, but also upside down, so that, in the bemusement so often caused by such events, I can easily remind myself who I am.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC THACKER,
The Vicarage,
Womersley,
Doncaster,
South Yorkshire.
April 9.

A powerful sense of creeping pollution

Loose Connections (PG)
Classics Oxford Street,
Haymarket

The special force of the film is the

The Golden Seal is an ecology fable, attractive for its directness and

Gutsy spirit: Meryl Streep in *Silkwood*

Loose Connections is the kind of small-scale British production that can be fatally overshadowed in a week of big commercial releases - pictures like *Greystoke* whose budgets may be fifty times greater. It would be a pity in this case, first because the film is at least as attractive and enjoyable as most blockbusters, but also because it represents a production initiative by the National Film Finance Corporation.

David Robinson

But the flow of Kylián's invention makes all these and many other striking moments part of a continuous process of implication that takes its shape from the music. Kylián's own design for the work is austere but entirely adequate: brown tights for the first trio, blue for

The evening's other new production, by contrast, looks amazingly cluttered. *Fleeting Figures* is the first big-scale production for the Royal Ballet by Derek Deane, one of their principal dancers; it comes after several party pieces for the Royal Ballet's dancers and choreographers, and some ballets abroad. It is mainly for the National Ballet of Zimbabwe. Deane has a flair for making duets which always look effective, displaying the dancers' skills with smoothness and grace, although in retrospect it is not always easy to distinguish work from another. In the new version he again composes very large, for couplet, duets which are often doubled, quadrupled or multiplied by five, eight or ten to utilize a larger cast.

Like the company's other new productions this season, the programme uses only a fraction of the company: a total of just 31 dancers all evening. A bit worrying, that.

John Percival

Frances Barber, radiating emotional generosity

Disease is the one fictional

Irving Wardle

But, said Mr Kerzner, it was a stable country, otherwise millions could not have been invested. Bophuthatswana received 50 per cent of the profit. He thought his operation was of international significance. The first chair indicated that Mr Kerzner's creation showed Africans some things they might well do without. International stage and golf stars go there to perform and, perhaps, leave some of their fees on the tables. Happy Mr Kerzner. A good, bizarre little programme from the producer Ann Paul.

Dennis Hackett

output seems more the rendering of an inner vision" than this opus: the middle piece, though he described it as an impression of morning light on a lake, has

I hope all those who came for the Schoenberg stayed on for the Mahler in the second half, for Mr Rattle went on to give an

The ending was in the same measure exultant, benefitting from strong and generous if wobbly singing from Florence Quivar in "Ulrich" as well as from Alison Hargan's spiritualized purity and the Philharmonia Chorus's ringing power. At the end of a taxing evening it was probably inevitable that there should be a few orchestral blemishes. And we perhaps needed them to remind us we were not really in heaven.

Paul Griffiths

THE BALID of NARAYAMA.

A SHUHEI NAKAMURA FILM

KEIJI OGATA · SORAKO SAKAKIMOTO · ANI TAKESHI · HIRUOKA RAISHI · NAOKO KIKUCHIYAMA
 MICHIO KISHIMOTO · SHUHEI FUKAZAWA · FUMIYUKI JIMBO · YOSHINOBU FUKUDA · GORO KUSAKABE

Directed by SHUHEI NAKAMURA Music by SHUICHIRO YAMADA

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[illegible]

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Midland's California nightmare drags on

Midland Bank's Californian nightmare still seems to be getting more gruesome, rather than dissolving in a new dawn.

Following bad debt provisions, which produced a \$57m (£40m) loss in the last quarter of 1983, the 57 per cent owned Crocker has made another \$147m debt provision for the first quarter of this year, leaving a loss of \$121m (£84). This is partly due to decisions by the new management put in by Midland, and now headed by Mr Frank Cahouet from neighbouring Security Pacific, after taking a hard look at the loan portfolio. Unfortunately, it also reflects a further worsening of the California credit scene, the collapse of a big customer in the energy business and more problems among farming and property customers, that have pushed another \$100m of loans into the "non-performing" category this year.

The problems at Crocker have already dragged down Midland's own consolidated profit to £225m last year, lower than any of the previous three years. In alone the £15m of 1979. Dividend prospects have been soured. Worse, perhaps, in a finance industry where to deal is now unthinkable, the combination of Crocker's problems and the Budget deferred tax blows have left Midland the lowest valued of the big four banks at less than £900m and hence with an apparently lower market worth than Charterhouse, J Rothschild plus Hambro Life. Mr Geoffrey Taylor, Midland's chief executive, was not obviously looking over his shoulder yesterday as he pointed to the group's book asset value of £1.9 billion, although that still includes Crocker at \$52 per share compared with the average purchase price of \$67 and yesterday's market price of only \$25. Both Crocker and Midland itself, he insists, have adequate capital bases. The Budget treatment of deferred tax on earnings and the latest Crocker losses take Midland's capital asset ratio down from 4.6 per cent to something over four per cent, which would still appear relatively healthy.

Mr Cahouet and his team are now clearly taking drastic action, including "reducing our investment in headquarters buildings" and praying no doubt that Argentina will stay in the debt fold to stop another \$185m of loans joining the \$880m out of Crocker's \$16.2 billion loan portfolio which are now "non-performing". This is more than emergency surgery. They are cutting costs and overheads to give Crocker a better profit earning potential than in the past. If, as hoped, bad debt provisions return to a more normal level, Crocker could start showing a profit in some later quarters, though Mr Taylor concedes that Crocker is unlikely to show a profit for 1984 as a whole.

Can Midland, therefore, now afford to sweat it out in California and wait for the good work to show through? That would be sanguine. One question clearly relevant to Midland's boardroom deliberations is whether 57 per cent of Crocker, even with management control, is any longer a happy or healthy position?

"You have only to look at Shell's recent activity to answer that question," says Mr Taylor. "Royal Dutch/Shell is trying to buy out the US minority in Shell Oil. Crocker's outside shareholders may no longer be shielded from the bank's problems. The quarterly payment has so far been halved and the Crocker board has said it will review dividend payments have prudently been made."

If the dividend is axed, which would hardly count as oppressing a minority, Midland might find a receptive audience for a take-out bid that would, as the euphemists put it, average out the purchase cost of Crocker and give Midland full control and the flexibility it needs now as never before. It is also inescapably true that Midland itself is vulnerable, in its present low market state, to ambitious predators. The question might be: "Can Midland rely on ex-clear-

ing banker Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton maintaining the Bank of England principle that major British clearing bankers are now immune from takeover?"

Institutional investors welcome Liffe index

The London International Financial Futures Exchange (Liffe) has produced a promotional video to publicize its new UK Equity Index contract which begins trading on May 3. Pension fund managers already seem to be sold on the idea. Both Mr George Dennis (Post Office) and Mr Tony Smith (British Gas) are there on tape extolling the virtues of a contract which gives investors the opportunity to bet on the future performance of the FT Stock Exchange 100 Index. In more seemingly words they can hedge against ups and downs in the market, be more active in portfolio management, and protect future intended share purchases against an increase in cost.

The size of the contract, £25 for each point of the index, has been designed specifically for institutional investors. As Mr Michael Jenkins, Liffe chief executive points out, if the Exchange had had the small speculator in mind it would have opted for a smaller contract. The tax treatment of futures contracts is still complex and grey enough to deter the British public from seeking to satisfy its insatiable appetite for betting through the new contract. Pension funds are exempt. Life insurance funds mainly pay capital gains. Professional traders and banks pay case 1 income tax and the poor private investor pays case VI income tax. With the end of the investment income surcharge, the tax position of the private investor is not as bad as it was, but it is still a long way from perfect.

Both Liffe and the Stock Exchange with its new index option want to see the tax position clarified. Both would be satisfied if the private investor were brought into case 1, where broadly speaking losses can be offset against gains.

Hard bargaining on non-tariff barriers

If the latest report of the Liberation of Trade in Services Committee (Lotis) is anything to go by, the present drive to break down non-tariff barriers to international trade in services, and particularly financial services, is going to prove a long-running and hard-bargaining saga.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, you may recall, asked for investigations by member governments after one of its more stormy and unhelpful Geneva meetings. After the abolition of exchange controls, easing of restrictions at Lloyd's and, now, the Stock Exchange, Britain is relatively pure in this argument.

One of the worst problems is that the pattern of restrictions is so fluid that any international list will be out of date by the time it is printed. Data flow and transfers are major areas for new barriers to free trade in services. Lotis is therefore proposing that Gatt concentrates first on establishing a standstill, with governments voluntarily notifying existing and any new restrictions, and that discussions be initially confined to public sector obstacles rather than the problems of private cartels and clubs.

The other big stumbling block, especially for Britain is that some of our European Community partners - France, West Germany, Italy - are among the most important obstructions. That means there seems little prospect of Europe showing the way by breaking down barriers to its internal market. Ironically, the Lotis line is that acting through the cumbersome machinery of Gatt, with American muscle, is more likely to put pressure on EEC countries than the other way round.

Banks in talks over \$200m Esal Commodities crisis

By Philip Robinson

Seven banks owed a total \$200m (£139m) by Esal Commodities are preparing to inject a further \$45m into the company as part of a rescue package. Esal Commodities has not traded since January and has its assets frozen by High Court order.

The firm has paid-up capital of just £1m and late last year was having to offer security for loans. The Central Bank of India has a registered charge over a Boeing 707 owned by the company.

None of the original directors are now with the company, which says its troubles started when the Nigerian coup halted payments on imported sugar. Esal is being run by Mr James Coote, an accountant who has been on the London office for

seven weeks and is believed to have been appointed by an associate of an Esal company.

He said yesterday: "It would be premature for me to say anything at the moment. Before Esal, I was a director of an engineering company. Negotiations are at a delicate stage and I am advised by everyone to say nothing."

Leading the negotiations is the Punjab National Bank. It is a significant creditor along with the Central Bank of India, Middle East Bank, Union Bank of India, Oriental Credit, and Johnson Matthey Bankers.

Allied Arab Bank, which is owed \$11m, had been holding out against the rescue but has now agreed. For it to be effected, Allied Arab would have to obtain High Court

permission to withdraw the injunctions granted to it which freeze the Esal assets.

Of the \$200m debts, the banks are owed an estimated \$160m and 25 trade creditors - many of them London commodity brokers - are owed a total \$40m. The current package would raise an equivalent sum.

According to banking sources, the plan is to put in a management team to run Esal, obtaining business from those past directors who are no longer in Britain and hope that the undisclosed sum owed by Nigeria will be repaid.

Some collateral for the new cash coming in is said to come from "friends of the company and other Esal companies". Trade creditors are unsure whether the banks themselves

are fully secured on existing debt. Fresh debt will be mostly unsecured, but the banks may well use the cash to pay off the unsecured creditors and then write off their own exposure.

Esal Commodities was owned by Mr Rajender Singh Sethia. The Times of India describes Mr Sethia's interests as spanning the globe but mainly in commodities in third world countries. In India he owns Jokia tea estate. In Britain he also owns betting shops and 150 racetracks.

WHEELLOCK MARITIME INTERNATIONAL: Net loans for 1983, after tax and minorities, but before extraordinary items, \$HK60.29m (about £3m), against loss of \$HK860,000 last time.

Sharp fall in output but trend is better

By Frances Williams Economics Correspondent

The output of British industry fell sharply and unexpectedly in February, but the underlying trend suggests continued moderate industrial recovery.

Total production (manufacturing and energy) slipped by 1.6 per cent in February, while manufacturing output alone dropped by 1.9 per cent, according to provisional figures from the Central Statistical Office. Metal and car production, which was hit by strikes, showed a steep decline.

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT Seasonally adjusted 1980 = 100		
	Production industries	Manufacturing
1979	107.4	108.4
1980	108.0	108.0
1981	98.3	98.8
1982	98.0	98.7
1983	100.8	98.4
1983 Q2	99.5	94.1
Q3	101.5	96.0
Q4	102.9	97.1
1984 Jan	104.5	98.7
Feb	102.8	96.8
3 month change %	1.5	1.8

Source: CSO

But substantial upward revisions to earlier figures, of about 1 per cent, have lent support to suggestions that the provisional estimates routinely underestimate what is happening to output.

On a three-month comparison, the one preferred by official statisticians, Britain's industrial performance looks a good deal healthier. Total production in the three months to February was 1.5 per cent higher than three months earlier.

Manufacturing output has risen by 1.8 per cent in the latest three months.

The most recent survey by the Confederation of British Industry showed manufacturers more optimistic on output prospects than at any time for eight years.

Data Recording to seek full market listing

By Our City Staff

Data Recording Instrument Company, Europe's largest independent manufacturer and supplier of computer peripherals, VDUs and other systems, and one of the British Technology Group's most successful investments, is to seek a full stock market listing in 1987.

The state-backed DTG, which has invested £27m in DRI since 1980, yesterday paved the way for the flotation by selling a 65 per cent stake in the company to a consortium of City banks led by S. G. Warburg & Co.

The new consortium is paying DTG about £10m for its holding and will inject a further £10m into DRI.

The existing management of DRI stands to own a maximum 15 per cent stake in the business by 1987.

Last year DRI made operating profits of £4.1m on a turnover of £70m. DTG officials expect the business to have a turnover of about £100m by 1987.

SE ends 250 years as a private club

By William Kay and Wayne Lintott

On the day that the Stock Exchange published its draft proposals for radical changes on the future of the stock market, the Department of Trade and Industry yesterday formally announced the end of the Exchange's 251-year life as a private club.

Instead, it will become a statutory body on January 1, 1985, under draft regulations to implement European Community directives establishing a common system for the listing of securities throughout the 10 member-countries.

The Council of the Stock Exchange will be designated as the British authority competent to apply and administer directive requirements. This role is due to be reinforced by legislation on investor protection, which has been earmarked for 1986.

The Stock Exchange Council's own discussion paper outlines the likely shape of the market once fixed commissions are abandoned at the end of next year. This will fulfil the undertaking given to the DTI last autumn, in return for which the Government exempted the

Exchange from the provisions of the Restrictive Practices Act.

The Council formally accepts for the first time that the single capacity jobbing system will have to go. It examines four alternative systems based on the assumption that the member firms will be known as "broker-dealers".

Outsiders are to be given a much bigger role than ever before. They will be allowed to own a member firm outright, instead of being confined to a ceiling of 29.9 per cent as at present. But a majority of the directors of member firms must still themselves be members.

New firms are to be admitted through a system of seats or licences, or payments to the Exchange to cover the greater cost of policing the new system. All executives of member firms will have to be members if they deal or give advice to the public. The directors of limited corporate member firms will be allowed limited liability.

Separate arrangements are being made for the gilt-edged market, which will be dominated by "primary dealers".

Feature, page 19

Campari pulls out of merger talks

By Andrew Cornelius

Plans to reshape Britain's camping and leisure equipment industry by merging the sales and distribution businesses of Campari International, Blacks Camping and Leisure and Greenfields Leisure have collapsed at a late stage after a decision by Campari to pull out of the talks.

However, Mr Henry Lipton, the chairman of Campari, does not rule out further talks later if satisfactory terms can be agreed. He will give details of takeover approaches for the Campari group in his annual report to shareholders.

The new management team at Blacks Camping and Leisure, which bought 25 Blacks camping shops from the Black & Edgington group last year, is understood to be the driving



First Leisure at premium

Shares in First Leisure Corporation, headed by Lord Delfont (above), achieved a 20p premium when they made their stock market debut yesterday. Offered for sale at 180p, they shot up to 200p before settling for a closing price of 199p.

The new issue attracted about £350m from investors keen to get share in a group whose interests include the Blackpool Tower and holiday parks.

The offer was oversubscribed 32 times.

Greenwell dealership

W. Greenwell yesterday became the latest stockbroker to set up an international dealership under the new Stock Exchange rules which came into force on Monday.

But while most have no stated specialisation, this one is being set up jointly with Gencor Investment Corporation, the South African mining giant, to deal in "natural resource stocks". Mr Gordon Pepper, Greenwell's senior partner, confirmed last night that in practice this would mean gold mining shares.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1117.0 up 6.4	High 1117.8 Low 1109.7
FT All Share: 888.6 up 2.5	FT All Share: 828.56 up 10.63
Barclays: 25.015	Datamark USM leaders: 113.93 up 1.05
New York: Dow Jones Average: 127.62 down 3.35	Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 10,367.15 up 27.71
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index: 1091.41 up 2.51	Amsterdam: 170.2 up 1.2
Sydney: AO Index: 781.1 up 5.4	Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 1019.5 up 1.4
Brussels: General Index: 154.05 up 0.54	Paris: CAC Index: 171.4 down 0.8
Zurich: SBA General Index: 310.40 down 0.50	

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling	\$1.4310 down 1 cent
Index 80.1 unchanged	DM 3.7525 down 0.0075
FF 111.5350 down 0.02	Yen 321 unchanged
Dollar	Index: 126.6 up 0.3
DM 2.6180 up 0.0050	

NEW YORK LATEST

Sterling \$1.4310	Dollar DM 2.6185
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INTERNATIONAL

ECU 20.594765	SDR 20.739358
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INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:	Bank base rates 8%
Finance houses base rate 9%	Discount market loans week fixed 8%—8½
3 month interbank 8½%—8¾%	Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10½%—10¾%	3 month DM 5½%—5¾%
3 month FF 13½%—13¾%	US rates
Bank prime rate 12.00	Fed funds 10½
Treasury long bond 96½%—96¾%	ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period March 7, 1984 to April 3, 1984 inclusive: 8.976 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):	am \$382.10 pm \$381.90
close \$378.50—\$379 (\$264.25—\$264.75)	New York (latest): \$379.10
Kruggerand (per coin):	\$388.50—\$391 (\$272—273)
Sovereigns (new):	\$88.50—\$89.50 (\$61.75—62.50)
*Excludes VAT	

NEW IN BRIEF

Bae wins jets order

Ansett Transport Industries of Australia has ordered two British Aerospace 146 Regional jet airliners as part of a £28m (\$40m) re-equipment programme. The contract includes options for six more aircraft.

MORGAN CRUCIBLE COMPANY, the international industrial components and materials group, had pretax profits of £9.8m in 1983 up from £4.7m. Turnover increased from £152.5m to £160.3m. The final dividend of 4p makes 7.5p for the year, the same as last time.

Tempus, page 20
AUSTIN REED GROUP, the men and womenswear chain, has confirmed that it has passed through its sticky trading patch of two years ago with a second set of record results. Profits increased from £3.3m to £4m in 1983-84.

Tempus, page 20
PORTALS REPORT record 1983 results with earnings per share rising by 21 per cent. Sales were ahead by 14 per cent for the 12 months to December 31, at £179m, while pretax profits rose 12 per cent to £10.6m. The proposed final dividend of 11p (19.75p) makes a 1983 total of 17.25p (15.3p).

Barter fears discounted

By Our Economics Correspondent

Barter between countries, more formally known as "countertrading", represents at most 8 per cent of world trade in goods and poses a smaller threat to the trading system than has been suggested according to an unpublished study from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt).

Some private estimates have put the proportion of countertrading - in which a country buys goods on condition that the seller buys its own goods in exchange - as high as 40 per cent.

The study says that evidence suggests that countertrading has grown considerably

pun, the economy minister, and the bankers advisory group earlier this week. Sr Grinspun is understood to have incensed bankers by saying he wanted to renegotiate better terms on a \$1.5 billion medium term loan which lapsed earlier this year after only \$500m was drawn.

The loan was put together with much difficulty, especially for British banks, last year.

Another hurdle is looming for Argentina and the banks when the remaining repayments of a \$1.1 billion bridging loan fall due by April 16. There is no prospect of Argentina completing repayments but with little progress likely by then on agreement with the IMF, some banks may balk at formally extending the repayments date.

Argentina has indicated that it is looking for a new style agreement with the IMF which recognises that restoring growth is as important as reducing inflation. However, it is being stressed in Washington that there is no chance of the IMF bending its normal rules or making any concessions because of the political problems of the fledgling civilian government.

Early agreement on key objectives unlikely

New Argentine debt setbacks

From Peter Wilson-Smith, Washington

There is little chance of Argentina signing a new letter of intent with the International Monetary Fund before the end of this month and it will be two months at the very earliest before a programme could be approved by the board, according to monetary sources in Washington.

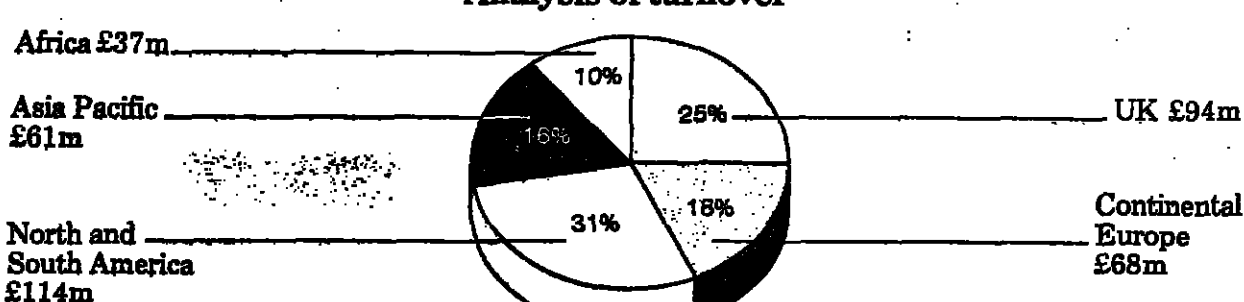
Argentina and IMF are still at loggerheads over how to implement key objectives such as reducing the public sector deficit and the IMF is understood to be concerned at the nation's relaxed approach to negotiations.

Argentina's already strained relations with commercial bankers also appear to have worsened after a meeting between Senior Bernardo Grins-

APV HOLDINGS

	1983	1982
Turnover	£374m	£339m
Profit before tax	£18.3m	£17.6m
Earnings per share: basic	34.1p	34.4p
diluted	32.0p	30.6p
Ordinary dividends	11.25p	10.5p

Analysis of turnover



Extracts from the statement by the Chairman, Sir Ronald McIntosh KCB

Although there was no marked improvement in the demand for capital equipment, we achieved a modest increase in turnover and pre-tax profit in 1983.

The dividend has been increased for the seventeenth successive year. Our balance sheet has again strengthened; shareholders' funds have increased by £10 million to £114 million and the debt-equity ratio has been reduced to 10 per cent.

We continue to give the highest priority to the development of our technology and to foster innovation throughout the group.

Orders received in 1983 were 11 per cent up on 1982. We entered 1984 with an order book only slightly higher than 12 months previously but the prospects for growth in the major economies of the world seem to be improving and this should bring an increase in the demand for capital goods.

Several of our companies in Europe, the USA and elsewhere produced good results in 1983 and we expect most of them to do well again this year. So far as group profits for 1984 are concerned, much will clearly depend on the strength of the hoped-for recovery in demand for capital goods.

APV — market leaders in advanced process plant for the food, beverage and chemical industries.



APV HOLDINGS PLC

APV House, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 1HH.

The AGM will be held on Tuesday 22 May 1984 at APV House, Crawley.

Copies of the Report and Accounts will be available after Monday 30 April 1984 from the Secretary.

The above figures are extracted from the full historical cost accounts of the group for the year ended 31 December 1983 on which the auditors have given an unqualified opinion. The full accounts will be filed with the Registrar of Companies after the Annual General Meeting.

● One year old and a winner

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

● Showing anglo-eastern promise

The minnow that grew to turn over £4m

By Derek Harris

A minor essay in privatization is not only paying off for some former British Rail employees. Even BR, having sold out to two of its former executives for a token £1, is seeing near-doubled rail revenues from the activities of a now one-year-old company, Dunn Miller Associates.

Christopher Dunn and Gordon Miller are joint managing directors of the minnow company which operates Superbreak mini-holidays, the former British Transport Hotels subsidiary first set up not as a profit centre but as a topping-up operation to fill beds in British Rail's BTH hotels and sell some extra rail seats.

It was early into what has turned out to be the one big growth area in British-based holidays, the short break.

Mr Dunn, who is 49, was formerly director of sales and marketing at BTH, with the superbreak operation as part of his remit. Mr Miller, now 30, was his northern sales and marketing manager.

In the final year of BTH operation, as the hotels group prepared for privatization sell-off, Superbreak was tracked more carefully on costs. Mr Dunn said: "It looked as if it could be turned into a profitable business. But when we set up shop in February last year it still seemed like a jump into the ocean."

In the final year of BTH operation the short-break holidays generated £700,000 in rail revenue for BR but in the first Dunn-Miller year this has been hoisted to £1.3m.



Dunn: "a jump in the ocean"

But the increased number of holiday breaks now on offer, featuring more hotels, are as well as rail based to secure the maximum flexibility. In the first year of independence Superbreak's original hotel offerings of 33 establishments was expanded to 83 and the total is rising to 130.

There is plenty of competition in the burgeoning short-break holidays market. Trusthouse Forte, the hotels and leisure group, is market leader. Superbreak is calculated by Mr Dunn to be among the top four together with BR's Golden Rail operation but believes the increasing spread of Superbreak's operation will push it ahead at any rate of MCCA.

More than half Superbreak bookings are for holidays in London, autumn being the peak time. There is a French sales operation which is bringing French families over to Britain on Superbreaks.

Superbreak's trade in the first year has been 80 per cent up compared with an expected 50 per cent growth. "We completely surprised ourselves," said Mr Dunn.

Gross turnover has doubled to £4m and Mr Dunn foresees a rise to £4.75m or possibly more during the next financial year (the company's year runs from May to May). This financial year a trading profit appears to be on the cards.

By Wayne Lintott

Mr Hiroshi Kato, a successful pop musician in Japan, in 1971 came to Britain to begin a new career, and now runs LOE Group, a small company specializing in Anglo-Japanese business, especially in what he terms the software trades. By that he means services, leisure, entertainment and media.

What is interesting about his small company is the sheer clout he exercises in money terms, the role he plays for Japanese corporations and the people with whom he wants to do business here: small companies with good ideas, projects in need of development, audio visual productions seeking finance and creative management.

He works closely with Mr Dudley Allen, also a former musician and engineer. Since becoming fully established over the last few years they have organized and financed the Swiss arranged introductions and finance for the development of the £300m theme park centre planned for Corby, managed European tours for Japanese artists, both classical and modern; overseen the sale of British television material in Japan and are now involved in finding finance for video productions and running seminars in Britain to illustrate what can be realistically achieved with British ideas and Japanese development.

He has strong views about the American domination of Japan and the ludicrous situations exploited in the United States, refined by the Japanese, then sold back to both countries.

He makes two strong recommendations. The first is that when dealing with the Japanese, use an intermediary.



The group: Dudley Allen (left) Antonella Mancini and Hiroshi Kato

Otherwise a company becomes involved in what the Japanese sum up as "peeling the onion leads to many tears." As the Nissan car deal illustrated, Japanese companies have enormous layers of democratic control ("our culture is only 40 years old") and each layer, including unions, has to prove a deal before it is passed on to the next layer. It takes years.

And do not, as many big British companies do, use the British class system of Lord This and Sir That as representatives. "The Japanese like to look a man in the eye and shake his hand. They do not like to have to bow their heads to someone with whom they wish to do business," states Mr Allen firmly. "Much of the problem relates to prejudice and a

complete lack of understanding in the ways of Japanese business dealings."

He describes a recent situation. A Japanese TV company wanted to acquire British video and TV product and fronted £1.4m towards a deal. Mr Kato explained: "We had trouble spending it." British companies look to the US first without fully realizing the potential of the Japanese to exploit product not only in their own country but also in the English-speaking world.

Mr Kato said: "I have spent many years persuading the major Japanese companies that Britain is the home of ingenuity and ideas and that this is where they should come to acquire them."

He sees small companies in

particular as the birthplace of those ideas. In Japan, he explained, agencies like Hakuhodo and Dentsu, the two largest advertising agencies in the world, play a much wider role than agencies here. They provide venture capital, for instance, and will nurture a development until it is ready to be passed on to a major corporation. The agencies will also act as negotiators on deals, provide and arrange sponsorships - so widely seen now on British football team shirts - and back audio and visual productions.

"The areas of business activity in Japan are clearly defined," Mr Kato said. "It is pointless approaching some companies direct, even though that might be the obvious thing to do in Britain."

Local focus - the enterprise answer?

Local enterprise agencies could be more effective the more localized their focus, which suggests that the number of agencies desirable in Britain should be at least double the forecast ceiling of 300, Derek Harris writes.

With nearly 200 such agencies or trusts already operating, Britain is among the most active of EEC countries in taking local initiatives to help small businesses and thereby promote the creation of new jobs, according to a report by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), out this week. Local initiatives result in new jobs than do a region or a local authority area spending resources on attempting to attract investment from other areas of Britain or from abroad, the EIU report argues.

Enterprise agencies in relatively large regions have to spread their resources particularly thinly, says the report. There is a tendency to devote most energies to towns in such circumstances. Another problem is how far agencies screen aid so that products or services are not supported when a neighbourhood is already adequately supplied with that particular product.

Shoestring budgets at agencies also often make it impossible for them to become directly involved in what is the crucial development of premises, especially small starter units. But the EIU sees agencies as a useful means of concentrating local concern about jobs and in mobilizing local resources.

The main question is whether adequate funding can be provided in the longer term, the report suggests. There are already signs private sector sponsors are anxious not to commit long term funds.

"Creating New Jobs in Europe: the Role of Local Initiatives" EIU special report 165; EIU, Spencer House, 27 St James's Place, London SW1A 1NT; £30 (01-493 5711).



MR FRIDAY Ken Ryle

"But you're already a client - it's only potential ones I take to restaurants for lunch!"

Brian Warnes - managing director of Midland Bank Venture Capital, which has been one of the biggest providers of financial aid for smaller businesses - believes the successful businessman needs an approach like that of the legendary successful barrow-boy who said: "I buy for £1, sell for £2 and live very well on the 10 per cent margin." In other words, business is more about buying and selling production hours than about products: gross margin and not sales constitutes the real income of a business.

The Warnes approach to business, exuding much horse-sense, has been set down in a book "out this week. It addresses some tough criteria on the break-even point in a business as well as arguing for tight and frequent cash-flow forecasting.

Since MBVC was set up by the Midland Bank in 1979 it has invested in 65 small companies, of which 46 survive with 30 in profit and seven earning £100,000 or more at the bottom line. In the past two years there has been only one failure.

"The Gangster's Guide to Business" by Brian Warnes: Corgi Books, 9 Holyrood Street, London SE1 2JL (telephone 01-403 7575); £19 (p & p 55p).

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LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL DISPOSAL OF MULTI-STORY FLATS

The Council are considering the disposal of four blocks of eight-storey flats at Hobs Road, Lichfield as an alternative to rehabilitation by the council. The 128 flats are on the outskirts of the City of Lichfield and are immediately adjacent to good road and rail links to all of the country and particularly commuting facilities to Birmingham, Burton-on-Trent, Derby, and the major towns in the conurbation of the West Midlands.

Interested developers and property companies may obtain further details from Mr. R.D. Bursford, Director of Housing and Environmental Services, Lichfield District Council, Frog Lane, Lichfield, Staffordshire. Telephone: Lichfield 5181.

Proposals by way of tender are returnable in plain sealed envelopes endorsed "Tender - Multi-story Flats", to the Chief Executive and Secretary, Lichfield District Council, 45 St John Street, Lichfield by 12 noon on Tuesday 15th May, 1984.

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How De Vere profits up to record £1.8m

By Jonathan Clare

De Vere Hotels and Restaurants, owner of the Mirabelle Restaurant, Connaught Rooms, listing of hotels and the subject of an embarrassing abortive takeover bid last December, earned in record profits last year.

A resurgence of confidence among businessmen has increased business travel, even in areas like the West Midlands which helped De Vere to increase its profits from £1m to £1.8m last year. Mr Leslie Jackson, the deputy chairman, said: "The Midlands hotels have been very good. The one in Coventry has been trading at record levels."

More than half the shares are in the hands of the chairman, Mr Leopold Mullen. Last December he agreed to sell out to a Mr Geoffrey Holland at 340p per share with a general offer to all shareholders to follow at the same price. But Mr Holland's off-the-shelf company, Selfpost, failed to come up with the necessary financial assurances and the deal fell through. However, Mr Mullen's known willingness to sell his stake has continued to underpin the share price, which rose 3p to 313p on the results, in expectation of another bid.

The Connaught Rooms, the London & banqueting suite, is still losing money but is now close to break-even.

The Mirabelle, a big favourite with US tourists attracted back to Britain by favourable exchange rates, is profitable and now benefits from last year's £300,000 refurbishment.

The current year has started well with occupancy at much-improved levels and tariffs are no longer under the competitive pressure seen two years ago. The total dividend has been maintained at 6p.

WALL STREET

US tax increase voted

Washington (AFP) - The US House of Representatives has approved a three-year tax increase on alcohol, cigarettes, telephones and businesses that would earn the government \$49 billion (£34 billion) in its campaign to cut the country's \$200 billion federal deficit.

The measure was adopted by a vote of 318 to 97.

The US Senate is also debating a series of similar proposals that would increase federal revenues by \$48m. The Senate package would exclude taxes on cigarettes.

The moves are part of a joint effort by Congress and the Administration to reduce the burgeoning federal deficit.

William Kay dissects the Stock Exchange's discussion document on change

Questions Sir Nicholas must answer

Outside stakes in Stock exchange firms

June 1982 Security Pacific (US) - Hoare Govett (B)	£2m
Nov 1982 RIT & Northern - Kitcat & Aiken (B)	na
Nov 1983 Citicorp (US) - Vickers de Costa (B)	£20m
Dec 1983 Mercury Sec. - Akroyd & Smithers (J)	£41m
Dec 1983 Prudential-Bache (US) backs new broker	na
Dec 1983 N M Rothschild - Smith Brothers (J)	£8.5m
Jan 1984 Charter Consolidated - Rowe & Pitman (B)	£16.2m
Feb 1984 Exco International to back new broker	na
Mar 1984 County Bank (Natwest) - Bisgood Bishop (J)	na
Mar 1984 Samuel Montagu (Midland) - W Greenwell (B)	na
Mar 1984 Barclays - Wedd Durlacher (J)	na
Barclays - de Zoete & Sevan (B)	na
Mar 1984 Hambros Bank - Strauss Turnbull (B)	na
Apr 1984 Morgan Grenfell - Pinchin Denry (J)	na
Apr 1984 Security Pacific (US) - Charles T Puley (J)	na

(B) indicates stockbroker, (J) stockjobber. Many deals still subject to Stock Exchange approval

The Governor said then: "The financial-service industry is going through a phase of very rapid change, generating intense competitive pressures, both domestically and internationally, that obliges those who wish to remain effective participants to respond."

So Sir Nicholas Goodison, the Stock Exchange chairman, has had to take at least a few bulls by the horns and lay down a bare minimum number of choices. On everything else, opinions must be sent to Mr John Young, the Director of Policy and Planning, by the end of next month with a view to producing a detailed blueprint in June or July.

That will also coincide neatly with the beginning of the process of drafting the White Paper on Investor Protection which the Department of Trade and Industry hopes to publish next winter. The plan is that the civil servants should have clear guidelines upon which to work, so that the politicians will have a reasonable prototype on their desks when they return from holiday in September.

The discussion paper is divided broadly into the possible dual-capacity market structures and the ways in which the membership rules might be altered to take account of the need to allow free access for outsiders.

On the market itself, the Council treats ill-edged dealings very differently from equity dealings. As far as gifts are concerned, the Council goes straightforwardly for an adaptation of the present market for Treasury Bonds in the US. Doubtless there is less scope for debate in this area because of the obvious interest of the Bank of England and the Government.

A number of member firms would be recognized by the Bank of England as primary dealers who could make markets and deal directly with investors as well as with brokers. They would be obliged

brokers, using nNew-found freedoms to sell their services more aggressively to the public, possibly entering the high street, but not having the capital to take risks more than very occasionally.

This cosy prospect omits some of the present cast. Small jobs could find themselves being squeezed and small institutional clients ignored. Another notable loose end is the problem of how to cope with lightly or seldom traded equities.

There is an influential lobby within the Council in favour of running a market of two or three tiers: an auction market for the most active securities, a market-maker system for the less active and a 'electronic' system of matched orders for the least active, where no market-makers were prepared to deal on a regular basis.

However, such a futuristic plan has been criticized in other parts of the world such as Tokyo, and it does cut across the Stock Exchange's fundamental aim of having a centralized market.

These would be the minutiae of humble sub-committees were it not for the other big issue opening up the membership of the Stock Exchange.

Although time is running out, the Stock Exchange is still strictly a private club and many of its members see it in that light. That inevitably colours the Council's deliberations over how to admit outsiders.

So the document contains some nicely judged tinkering with the admission rules, including the notion that the Council might grant waivers, "where it was thought appropriate" to let some important people in without submitting to an entrance examination.

But the nub lies in the prospect that newcomers should be made to pay for entry. The present system is that individuals are admitted to the club and at some later stage are allowed to form a firm. This, unfortunately, takes time. So the feeling has taken root that the existing members should be compensated, however indirectly, for giving newcomers access to the assets - tangible and intangible - of the Stock Exchange.

The trouble is, how much do you charge them? Some would be entrants, like Merrill Lynch and Salomon Brothers of New York, or Nomura of Japan, could and probably would pay any price. That, to say the least, would inhibit and, in practice, debar smaller fry who are entitled to go through the same door. There may even be tax liabilities for the existing members to consider. The Government is known to have its doubts about entry fees, particularly if they are based on

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

● **RUBEROID**: Final dividend 5.1p, making 7.1p (5.6p). Figures in £000. Turnover 96,170 (58,245). Trading profit excluding Camrex 6,646 (3,775). Trading loss of Camrex (acquired June 1983) 1,100. Pretax profit 5,283 (4,165). EPS 22.97p (16.98p).

● **MARTONAIR INTER-NATIONAL**: Results for six months to January 1. Interim dividend 2p (1.95p). Figures in £000. Turnover 22,088 (20,013). Pretax profit 2,032 (1,825). There has been a steady improvement in demand in recent months, particularly in Britain and in West Germany.

● **GASKELL BROADLOOM**: Final 3.3p, making 4.3p (3.5p) for 1983. Figures in £000. Turnover 12,727 (11,573). Pretax profit 1,351 (686). EPS 18.3p (9.4p).

● **BETEC**: No dividend (same) for 1983. Figures in £000. Turnover 13,884 (14,588). Operating profit 909 (loss 115). Pretax profit 514 (loss 1256). EPS undiluted 4.4p (loss 10.53p) and fully diluted 3.54p.

● **PETER STORES**: Results for 26 weeks to December 24, 1983. Interim dividend in (same), payable June 11. Figures in £000. Net sales 4,786 (5,383). Trading profit 425 (363). Pretax profit 64 (147). EPS 1.8p (4.5p).

● **UNITED CERAMIC DISTRIBUTIONS**: Final 2.5p, making 3.5p for 1983. Chairman and his wife have waived their rights to the final dividend, amounting to £34,795. Figures in £000. Turnover 5,876 (5,060). Gross profit 1,031 (852). Pretax profit 159 (41). EPS 5.7p (2.9p).

● **PRINCE OF WALES HOTELS**: Acceptances have been received in respect of 4,104,904 ordinary shares (68.0 per cent). Before its offer, Taddale Investments owned 898,572 ordinary shares in Prince of Wales (14.94 per cent). Since the offer, Taddale has purchased a further 710,000 shares bringing the total a further holding to 5,479,030 shares or 90.7 per cent.

● **MY DART**: Final 0.5p making 0.75p (1p). Figures in £000. Sales 23,709 (24,626). Pretax profit 256 (loss 710) after interest of 525 (876). Closure costs 960 (280). EPS 1.34p (loss 4.47p).

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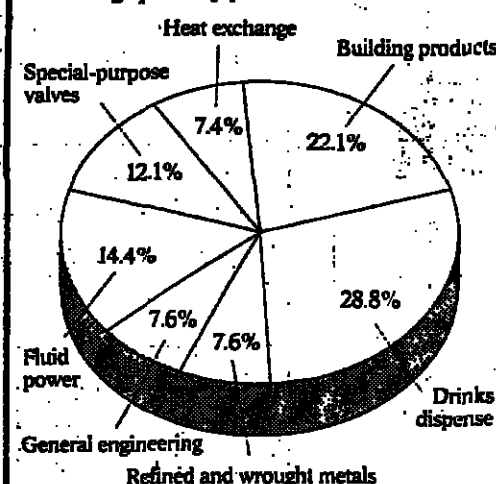
Turnover was up on 1982 by some 7%, and trading profit, at £41.6 million, was some 25% higher, after bearing £5.1 million of redundancy and reorganisation costs. Profit before taxation was £31.6 million compared with £21.6 million in 1982.

"Part of the reason for our improved performance lies in better trading conditions in some areas, but the major part was due to an improvement in the efficiency of our operations and to a change in the balance of our activities..."

"Our confidence in our ability to sustain progress is now sufficient to justify us recommending an increase in dividend from 3.5p to 4.0p for the year as a whole..."

"Our strong balance sheet puts us in a position to pursue further expansion by acquisition as and when suitable opportunities arise within our chosen fields of interest."

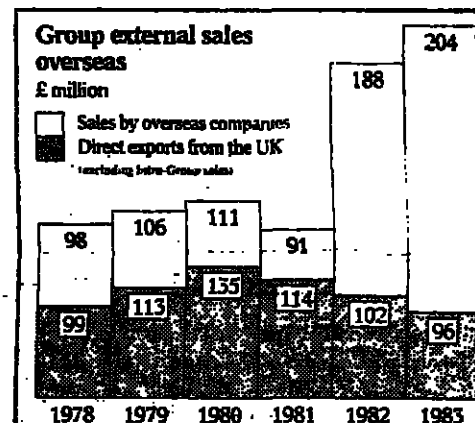
Percentage profit by product area



IMI means more than metal

The Annual Report has a comprehensive survey of IMI's activities. If you would like a copy please write to the Secretary, IMI plc, R.O. Box 216, Birmingham B6 7BA.

Summary of Results	1983	1982
Turnover	£66,340	£62,639
Trading profit	41,631	33,382
Profit before taxation	31,550	21,607
Earnings applicable to shareholders (excluding extraordinary items)	19,433	12,662
Earnings per share (excluding extraordinary items)	7.2p	4.7p
Dividend per share	4.0p	3.5p



Sir Robert concludes: "Economic certainty is a rare commodity in the modern world, and although we have done a great deal, we are not yet at the end of the processes of rationalisation, cost reduction and adjustment of our facilities and resources to those demands of the market that we can satisfy profitably. But we have increasing reason for confidence that we can now generate both growth in volume and improvement in margins. These are not claims to be made lightly after manufacturing industry's experience of the last few years."

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council for The Stock Exchange. It does not constitute an invitation to the public to subscribe for or purchase any securities.

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(Incorporated in Malaysia under the Companies Act 1965)

Authorised MS20,000,000 Shares of M50.50 each Issued and fully paid MS7,975,768.50

The Council of The Stock Exchange has admitted all the shares of M50.50 each in Gopeng Berhad to the Official List. Approval for listing has also been granted by The Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange. Particulars relating to the Company are available in the Extel Statistical Services and copies may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) up to and including 30th April, 1984, from:

Baring Brothers & Co., Limited
8 Bishopsgate
London EC2N 4AE

Foster & Braithwaite
22 Austin Friars
London EC2N 2BU

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange. It does not constitute an invitation to the public to subscribe for or purchase any shares

STEVENS

J.P. STEVENS & CO., INC.

(Incorporated with limited liability in the State of Delaware in the United States of America.)

Authorised 40,000,000 Shares of Common Stock of U.S. \$7.50 par value Issued and reserved for issue at 9th April, 1984 18,669,812

J.P. Stevens & Co., Inc. (the "Company") is the second largest publicly owned textile company in the U.S.A. with sales of \$1.9 billion and total assets in excess of \$1 billion. The Company is a major producer of diversified textile products and is also one of the U.S.A.'s leading commercial printers, together with other interests in aircraft sales and maintenance and the production of elastomeric and plastic products.

The Company has seventy-four textile manufacturing plants and nine major printing plants in the U.S.A. and interests in textile operations in Canada, England, Germany, France and New Zealand.

The Council of The Stock Exchange has admitted to the Official List all the 18,669,812 Shares of Common Stock of the Company issued and reserved for issue.

Particulars relating to the Company are available in the Extel Statistical Service and copies of such particulars may be obtained during usual business hours (Saturdays & public holidays excepted) up to and including May 4, 1984, from:

Chemical Bank International Limited
Chemical Bank House,
180 Strand, London WC2R 1ET

Rowe & Pitman
City Gate House,
39-45 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1JA

13th April 1984

First Computer opens shop

Mr Cyril Spencer, former head of the Burton menswear group, yesterday opened the first of what is intended to be a 50-strong chain of computer shops, called First Computer. The idea is that they will offer the public some guidance, especially if they have never bought a computer before. The first outlet is in Piccadilly, London. Three more are planned in London, to be followed by Bristol, Croydon and Slough.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	8 1/2%
Barclays	8 1/2%
BCCT	8 1/2%
Citibank	8 1/2%
Consolidated Creds	8 1/2%
Continental Trust	8 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co	8 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	8 1/2%
Midland Bank	8 1/2%
Nat Westminster	8 1/2%
TSD	8 1/2%
Williams & Glyn's	8 1/2%

1 Year deposits on prime rate
£10,000, 6%
£20,000, 6 1/4%
£50,000, 6 1/2%
£100,000, 6 3/4%
£250,000, 7%

مكتبة النور

Paul drops bid for Brockhouse

Mr Swraj Paul yesterday took his bid for Brockhouse, the loss-making West Midlands engineering group.

His Caparo Industries sold its 3.75 million shares, representing 20.3 per cent of the Brockhouse equity, for 60p a share as its rival bidder, Evered Holdings, increased its offer to the equivalent of 60.6p. It compares with a Brockhouse share price of 58.5p. Caparo's profit could be £1.7m of the £2.2 it got for the stake.

The fight for Brockhouse has virtually doubled the initial price offered for the company. From a Caparo offer of all shares with a £5m capital injection, the company is now valued at almost £11m.

In brief

● **AQUASCUTUM GROUP:** Sales for year to Jan 31, £25.6m (£25m). Pretax profit £618,000 (£333,000). Dividend 1.3p, making 2.05p for the year. (Chairman says that the group is now moving ahead, and the indication is that profits will be on an upward trend this year.)

● **APV HOLDINGS:** Final dividend 6.75p, making 11.25p (10.5p) for 1983. Sales £37.5m (£33.9m). Pretax profit £18.3m (£17.6m). Profit for 1984 will depend on the strength of hoped-for recovery in demand for capital goods, chairman says.

● **COOKSON GROUP:** Final dividend 6.5p making 10.2p (9.66p) for 1983. Sales £54.7m (£47.6m). Pretax profit £21.7m (£11.3m). Sales and profits presently achieving levels in excess of 1983, company states.

● **TIONIDE GROUP:** Final dividend 1p making 2.7p (1.2p) for 1983. Sales £26.9m (£23.1m). Pretax profit £2.2m (£1.6m).

● **INCHCAPE:** Company's subsidiaries, Inchcape US and Aronstead, have begun negotiations for the sale of Aronstead to some of its directors.

● **BEAUFORD GROUP:** Final dividend 2.6p making 4.35p (4.3p) for 1983. Sales £7m (£7.5m). Pretax profit £558,000 (£407,000).

● **CEMENT-ROADSTONE:** The chairman in his annual report says: "Results from our overseas operations continue to be good and this gives us ground for cautious optimism about the group's outcome for 1984."

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Petranol chief buys 20% property investor stake

By Michael Clark

Expect news later today that Mr Clive Smith, chairman of Petranol, the Texas oil exploration group which came to market in February, has bought a 20 per cent stake in the property investor Berkeley and Hay Hill Investments.

Mr Smith, bought his stake from Promotions House, the travel related promotions group quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market. The stockbroker Statham Duff Stoop bought the 6 million on behalf of Mr Smith at around the 16p level.

Promotions House gained 75 per cent of Berkeley last year after bid of 10.25p a share valuing the entire group at £2.2m. In January Promotions House decided to sell 13 million shares in Berkeley to help finance the acquisition of a controlling interest in Amalgamated Estates. Following the deal with Mr Smith, PH's stake

making a two day rise of 14p - as investors wait to learn the identity of the mysterious buyer who has built up a 5 per cent stake.

Gilts were again given the cold shoulder by investors following another lacklustre performance by the pound on the foreign exchange when it closed almost unchanged against the dollar at \$1.4320. Losses extended to £1 in longs, but selling pressure was described as light.

Woolworth's surprise counter-bid for Comet provided interest for the rest of retail sector. Shares of Woolworth were run up 25p to 478p as the market gave the thumbs up to the deal, which in turn added 22p to Comet at 222p.

Mr Phil Harris, chairman of Harris Queensway sold on Wednesday night he would not attempt to outbid Woolworth Holdings for Comet. But yesterday in the cold light of day the Harris directors were still thinking about what they could do. A decision is expected today.

Harris Queensway added 4p to 390p having seen its offer Comet topped, but the market speculators now think he might turn his attention to Curry's, 22p dearer at 373p. Debenhams which has just linked up with Harris Queensway in a trading agreement spurred 4p to 192p. Other big movers included Dixons 10p higher at 298p and Henry Wigfall 20p to 153p.

On the Unlisted Securities Market French Connection spurred 13p to 328p, after 331p, reflecting the recent figures and acquisition.

Lord Delfont's latest venture First Leisure made a strong start to first time dealings opening at 199p compared with the offer price of 180p. The shares ended the day at 200p - a premium of 20p.

National Westminster Bank has issued a floating rate note worth \$200m. The note carries interest of 3/4 per cent over the six month Interbank rate and is priced at par. The news cut short an earlier lead of 20p with the shares closing at 664p - a rise on the day of 12p.

Elsewhere, Barclays rose 10p to 888.6 helped by the opening rally on Wall Street. Among leaders Distillers advanced another 4p to 283p -

The takeover Panel has "exceptionally agreed" to allow Suter to retract a statement it made in its offer document for Francis Industries. Suter said that its cash alternative would only be available until April 18 - a statement construed under the takeover rules as "shut-off" notice which would prevent Suter from Raising the cash terms. The panel now says it may make a cash alternative available after April 18. Francis closed up 2p at 127p.

Mr Michael Ashcroft's tidying-up his Hawley Group's interests in Kean & Scott and Black & Edgington has been achieved. He said yesterday that Hawley held 75 per cent of Black and would have 75 per cent of Kean & Scott after paying for Kitchens Direct by issuing shares to the vendor, Hawley, Black and Kean, which quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, all closed

unchanged at 88p, 112p and 60p respectively.

Shares of Trifus, the loss-making diamond processor, rose 6p to a new high of 62p before the company called for a halt to dealings pending an announcement. A substantial reorganization in the group's affairs resulted in losses at the halfway stage climbing from \$346,000 to £1.01m.

GRA Group in continuing to lighten its holdings in Southend Stadium. Yesterday it announced the sale of another 75,000 shares reducing its total stake to 30.44 per cent.

Equity turnover on April 12, was £282.310m (20,583 bargains). The number of British and Irish stocks traded amounted to 174,771 million. Gift bargains totalled 3,072.

Publishing group shake-up

A management shake-up was announced yesterday by Routledge & Kegan Paul, the Henley based publishing group. Three directors, Mr Terence Lucas, Mr Malcolm Crocker and Mr Peter Hopkins, are leaving, having agreed undisclosed compensation. Mr Philip Sturrock from Pitman is joining as managing director.

Mr Norman Franklin, the chairman, said that although all three directors had other jobs to go to, they had been "encouraged" to resign. "Let's say that we persuaded them that prospects were better elsewhere."

The group was moving in the wrong direction but we have changed our acquisition and pricing policy and we are budgeting for profits this year."

In the half-year to the end of September, the company lost £49,000.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Generally quiet trading conditions prevailed on foreign exchange markets, where the dollar maintained a strong position despite a significant fall in US retail trade statistics. The steeper than expected decline of 2.2 per cent during March prompted a little profit-taking during the mid-session, but with short-covering soon in evidence the US unit quickly bounced back to levels ruling before, or even, in some instances, higher.

Sterling spent a rather unsettled day. Recovering from an early setback to reach a high of 1.4390, the rate in dollar terms slipped back to 1.4310 at the close, a fall of a cent. The trade weighted index was able to reach an initial 0.1 point fall to end unaltered at 80.1.

MONEY MARKETS

Interbank held 8 3/4% through yesterday morning easing to 8 1/4% per cent before lunch. The afternoon saw a dip to 8 per cent but the later stages brought a marked firming, with 10 per cent ruling at close.

The periods had a pretty quiet session, though firmness of the short dates at one, two, and three weeks exercised some pressure that worked out into the longer dates.

This was offset by the US retail sales that showed a 2.2 per cent drop for March. The net effect was a rates structure that showed little change at the end of the day.

TEMPUS

New-look Morgan comes back from the wasteland

After five years in the wilderness Morgan Crucible is back in town, with a vengeance. It is a leaner and more aggressive company with a new, stronger senior management team and a streamlined corporate structure. The old products associated with the dirty industrial wasteland have been overshadowed by the cleaner, more profitable, high technology divisions.

Since 1979, when Morgan had record profits, the company has seen substantial change. About 1,500 jobs have been shed in Britain and the dominance of its European operations has receded. In 1979 Britain and Europe accounted for 71 per cent of business. This was down to 54 per cent in 1983, with the United States doubling its contribution to 25 per cent.

The benefits of these changes are now filtering through. The pre-tax profit slide has been well and truly halted this year and profits have ended up close to the 1979 peak. The performance was achieved on the back of sales, which showed no volume growth, but the rationalization is far from over. More redundancies and closures can be expected in both 1984 and 1985, although not on such a large scale as in the past.

More encouraging than the figures, which should now form a springboard for real growth, is the new management style. Each operating division is now obliged to establish a corporate strategy and this has led to a much more confident business attitude.

In Japan the local crucible manufacturing company has been slowly squeezing the opposition out of business. After dropping its prices by 20 per cent the Morgan subsidiary was asked by an ailing Japanese rival to put them up again. Its response was to take a further 10 per cent off.

The group also has a technological superiority in Japan in its ceramics division and is now considering how this should be exploited either by internal expansion or by joint venture.

With a revolutionary new lubricant, using just water plus additives, now being produced and marketed with a great deal

of success in the US the future in this division offers great potential. In Britain a lucrative contract to produce missile heads is about to be signed and in France four crucible manufacturers are pleading for Morgan to bail them out.

Perhaps the only disappointment was that after five years of maintaining the dividend level, the company has had to dip into reserves for the first time to pay for it. The share price was up 3p at 161p.

Gilts

Demand for long-dated paper continues unabated, judging by the glad reception for yesterday's latest bulldog issue, £60m of 11 1/4 per cent debenture stock from Nova Scotia, dated 2019. Some speculate that S. G. Warburg could have placed far more, partly because of the yield differential over a comparable gilt, and also because the Government appears to have given up issuing 21st century stock.

Curiously, longs have shown signs of metal fatigue in the last week, with the market's worst performer, Treasury 11 1/2 per cent 200/04, shedding about 1/3 point. This may reflect renewed concentration on deteriorating British economic fundamentals, notably money supply and producer prices plus a dwindling preoccupation with America. Yesterday's 2.2 per cent drop in March US retail sales, possibly on harbinger of more reassuring data on the way over the weekend, hardly raised an eyebrow in shorts. All eyes here have been focussed on the ramp of low coupon stocks, in particular Treasury 3 per cent 1986 (up 1 point in a week, according to Wood Mackenzie). Poor retail price figures for March, due out this morning, would give added point to any fleeing appearance by the Government Broker in the market later in the day.

Portals

The Portals board must watch US monetary developments with bated breath. Every percentage point rise in American rates costs the Less Developed Countries a further \$4 billion (£2.7 billion), leading inevitably to cutbacks and the husbanding of resources. But

LDC spending exuberance is critical to Portals, one of the world's leading suppliers of water treatment plant, and bank note paper. With more than two thirds of sales going on exports, and the LDC's accounting for about half of sales abroad, Portals performance is clearly linked to LDC capital spending, as well as internal transactional demand.

A 12 per cent jump in profits on the back of a 14 per cent sales gain looks a reasonable performance, given that orders were few and far between. On the papermaking side, plant was not operating at full capacity, and profits slumped by nearly a fifth to £6.26m. The water treatment division saw higher margins coming through on large turnkey contracts, so that profits jumped by £3m to £9m. Nevertheless, order books for 1983 and beyond are beginning to look slender.

Portals forecast that 1984 should see just a modest improvement implies a target pretax minimum of perhaps £17m, rising to £20m, if "pent up demand" - that is, Third World banknotes falling apart - generates some large orders. A useful rise in the dividend of 11 per cent suggests underlying confidence, and at 610p, up 15p on the figures, the shares rate a price earnings ratio.

Austin Reed

Austin Reed Group may like to think that it is different from the run-of-the-mill high street clothes shops but, it is benefiting from the same high consumer spending that is fueling the growth of the mass chains like Burton Group.

Reed will continue to benefit from the economy and its own efforts last year to promote the business, with consumer spending likely to remain buoyant for at least the next couple of years.

Last year, with profits up from £3.3m to almost £4m, did not see the same leap as 1982/83, when the company was starting from a low trading base.

But profits last year could have been higher if Reed had not pumped money into its Options womenswear department within its shops and into increasing the capacity of its manufacturing operations.

Authorized Unit Trusts				Authorized Units & Insurance Funds				Insurance Bonds and Funds			
Unit	Price	Dividend	Yield	Unit	Price	Dividend	Yield	Unit	Price	Dividend	Yield
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England camp relieved at board's findings

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

Members of the England cricket team and others close to them have heaved a sigh of relief yesterday when the executive committee of the Test and County Cricket Board announced that their investigations had not substantiated any of the serious allegations made concerning the illegal use of drugs in New Zealand last winter.

Whether this is the end of the matter remains to be seen. It will be only if the writ issued by Ian Botham against the *Mail on Sunday* is withdrawn.

To the old, and not-so-old, times who followed the fortunes of Bob Willis's side, the very suggestion that any of them might have been unable to find anything better to do than smoke pot in such a wonderful and hospitable country as New Zealand caused nothing less than disbelief. They now, I hope, will be reassured.

The TCCB statement read:

"The board's executive committee has carried out a wide-ranging investigation into allegations contained in the *Mail on Sunday* of March 11, 1984 and other newspapers relating to the behaviour of the England team on tour of New Zealand and involving allegations concerning the illegal use of drugs.

"The investigation has included interviews with the full management of the England team and discussions with senior representatives of the New Zealand cricket authorities as well as with a representative of the cricket journalists who accompanied the England team on tour.

"At the outset the board wished to state in the strongest possible terms its condemnation of any illegal use of drugs and its firm intention to ensure, with the close cooperation of all counties, that such habits will not be allowed to enter English cricket.

"The investigations have not substantiated any of the serious allegations made. There is no evidence of any off-the-field behaviour which adversely affected performance on the field and it is clear that the conduct of the England team in general created a good impression with their New Zealand hosts.

"While it has no reason to suppose that it will be necessary, the executive committee will, of course, renew its inquiries should any significant new evidence be forthcoming.

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Hampshire can rise above their worries

By Richard Streeton

Against a disturbing financial background, in which £92,300 has been lost in two years, Hampshire has a hard time in the field as well as in the dressing room. The touring with West Indies and the county's chances of matching the third place gained in the championship two summers running look slim. Even Hampshire's forward planning for 1984 has already taken an ironic turn.

They gave a one-year contract to Milton Small, a 6ft 11in Barbados fast bowler, to cover Marshall's absence, only for Small unexpectedly to gain a Test place against Australia in the current series. It is not known yet whether Small will be on the England tour; if so "Elvis" Reifer, another Bahian, will deputize.

Despite their problems Hampshire, under Pocock's positive leadership, could still find the resilience to rise above some of their worries. They have dependable batting with Chris Smith, Nicholas, Jesty and Turner, and Paul Terry's

breakthrough in 1983 came at the right moment, Robin Smith, who will be eligible to play for England next year, will also be available after there is concern, however, about the bowling, the fireproof of Small or Reifer being unproven and doubts about Emery recapturing his 1982 form. Malone and Jesty last year were expensive.

Fortunate, Timlett has advanced with great strides. Southern has retired and Rajesh Maru, a Kenyan-born left-arm spinner, has joined the staff from Middlesex. Maru could provide the effective fast-medium bowling Hampshire have lacked.

1983 HODOR County champions: 3rd; Newmarket 1st; 2nd; 3rd; 4th; 5th; 6th; 7th; 8th; 9th; 10th; 11th; 12th; 13th; 14th; 15th; 16th; 17th; 18th; 19th; 20th; 21st; 22nd; 23rd; 24th; 25th; 26th; 27th; 28th; 29th; 30th; 31st; 32nd; 33rd; 34th; 35th; 36th; 37th; 38th; 39th; 40th; 41st; 42nd; 43rd; 44th; 45th; 46th; 47th; 48th; 49th; 50th; 51st; 52nd; 53rd; 54th; 55th; 56th; 57th; 58th; 59th; 60th; 61st; 62nd; 63rd; 64th; 65th; 66th; 67th; 68th; 69th; 70th; 71st; 72nd; 73rd; 74th; 75th; 76th; 77th; 78th; 79th; 80th; 81st; 82nd; 83rd; 84th; 85th; 86th; 87th; 88th; 89th; 90th; 91st; 92nd; 93rd; 94th; 95th; 96th; 97th; 98th; 99th; 100th; 101st; 102nd; 103rd; 104th; 105th; 106th; 107th; 108th; 109th; 110th; 111th; 112th; 113th; 114th; 115th; 116th; 117th; 118th; 119th; 120th; 121st; 122nd; 123rd; 124th; 125th; 126th; 127th; 128th; 129th; 130th; 131st; 132nd; 133rd; 134th; 135th; 136th; 137th; 138th; 139th; 140th; 141st; 142nd; 143rd; 144th; 145th; 146th; 147th; 148th; 149th; 150th; 151st; 152nd; 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Day is banned from race riding for three months

By Michael Seely

Harry Bardsley is to see the Jockey Club's investigation into his alleged involvement in the betting scandal at Portman Square on 10.30 this morning. "Anyone who's had a meal or a drink with me should be shaking in their shoes. I could fill the building with them if I named all those concerned. There would be no top jockeys' names left on the number boards," Bardsley said.

At yesterday's hearing at racing headquarters the 53-year-old Derbyshire gambler was declared a disqualified person for three years. This sentence is to run consecutively to the 15-year ban already imposed on Mr Bardsley on January 31 for the bribery of Billy Newnes.

Nigel Day, the 24-year-old jockey, was banned from race riding for three months and also declared a disqualified person for the same period for accepting a bottle of whisky and a bottle of wine from Mr Bardsley at the Caterick Bridge meeting in July last year.

This gift was given in connection with the 1983-84 season when Day won the 1000 Guineas at Newbury on May 25. Day was found to be in breach of Rule 62 (1)(c), which deals with the acceptance of gifts from persons other than the owner of the horse for whom the jockey is riding.

Bardsley was also found to be in breach of Rule 220 (1) which deals with the aiding and abetting of such offences. Both men emerged from Portman Square last night after a six-hour hearing.

A day-jockey said: "It seems a bit hard, standing me down for three months for a couple of bottles."

His solicitor, Matthew McCloy, commented: "I'm disappointed with the sentence in view of Day's previous good record. As a special dispensation Day is to be allowed to continue working in Henry Cecil's stable for the duration of his ban."

The four-times champion trainer gave evidence on the jockey's behalf at the inquiry.

Day finished serving a five-year apprenticeship with Cecil in October 1983. During the latter part of that period he was acting as understudy to Lester Piggott and has ridden a total of 101 winners at home and overseas.

This season his solitary success was gained at Nottingham last week. Last October the promising young jockey Paul Eddy was engaged as the stable's No. 2 rider, although Day has continued to be employed in the yard.

On January 30 this year Bardsley was found guilty of giving Newnes a £1,000 bribe in connection with the jockey's riding of Valuable Witness in the Queen's Vase at Royal Ascot last June.

At a recent hearing Brian Taylor was found to be not guilty of being in breach of the rules of racing in connection with a lawn mower he received from Mr Bardsley.

Last night Mr Bardsley was obviously considering the possibility of turning "Queen's evidence."

"I've arranged to see the Jockey Club again in the morning. I've not yet decided how much I will say, as I don't think there is any likelihood of them removing the whole of my sentence. This is all to do with presents and drink and is not concerned with the fixing of races," he said.

The fact that the Racecourse Security Services are prepared to see Mr Bardsley again is evidence of the fact that the authorities are interested in what he has to say and it is to be hoped that the three cases that have now been decided are not the tip of Mr Bardsley's famous iceberg.

The great triviality, as Phil Bull once so tellingly described racing, dropped its all-too-frequent mask of seriousness at Cheltenham yesterday and revealed a face that should be seen more - that of pure entertainment.

The occasion of the first world National Hunt Jockeys' championship, sponsored by Railfreight, was blessed with the most idyllic April day and a truly international line-up of jockeys, including a Russian and a Japanese. Perhaps the only minor factor was the almost boringly predictable victory for our own John Francome, to whom the draw for mounts had been as uncannily kind as if he had rigged it himself.

The four races of the competition did demonstrate one thing clearly: that in racing, as in other sports, we British tend to be unjustifiably insular when it comes to assessing foreign opposition. Francome's mount, Don Giovanni, was backed



Oriental magic: Shinobu Hoshino urges Desert Hero to victory (Photograph: Chris Cole)

That's entertainment with a capital 'E'

By John Karter

like a certainty in the first race, the Freightrain Hurdle. Not only that, but Fulkie Walwyn, who trains Desert Hero, Don Giovanni's main rival on paper, was apparently less than happy when Shinobu Hoshino, the Japanese rider, who at eight stone was the lightest rider in the competition, was drawn to ride his horse.

However, one look at Hoshino's credentials - he has won Japan's most valuable steeplechase, the Nakayama Dai Shogai, worth £250,000 in added money, three times, has five victories in the £150,000 Tokyo Shogai Tokobetsu to his credit - and you might have known that there was a lot more to the little Oriental than just a flashing smile.

Hoshino got Desert Hero jumping with almost unprecedented fluency - Walwyn said he had never seen him jump so well - and it was

clear from a long way out that he had Francome's measure.

The man with the black and red patent riding boots will not be forgotten in a hurry, either, by those who were lucky enough to be there, or by Walwyn, who said simply: "He must be a great little rider to get Desert Hero jumping like that. Not that Bill Smith has retired, he'll definitely be my first jockey next year."

It was all good humoured stuff like that and another trainer to jokingly "sack" his regular English jockeys, Richard Rowe, who had Gifford, after Philippe Caus, the 20-year-old Belgian rider, had done something that several top British riders had failed to do this season, namely persuade the clumsy Greenwood Lad to put in a clean round and win the third event, the Railfreight Chase.

Caus had previously finished

third on Another Deed to Francome on the favourite, Fitzherbert. In the second race, the Speedlink Distribution Hurdle, and came to the last as a serious challenger to the British champion. Incidentally, Francome described Fitzherbert's race in France (badly shaken), and Huse Kassey, of the Soviet Union (mild concussion), in the chase. They did not ride in the final event, the Speedlink International Novice Hurdle and were replaced by Peter Scudamore, John Southern, and Sam Marshfield respectively.

The only other slightly serious notes during the afternoon were the falls of three foreign riders. Morten Reinert, of Norway (displaced collarbone), Michel Chirou, of France (badly shaken), and Huse Kassey, of the Soviet Union (mild concussion), in the chase. They did not ride in the final event, the Speedlink International Novice Hurdle and were replaced by Peter Scudamore, John Southern, and Sam Marshfield respectively.

Shoot Clear can prove sharper

By Mandarina (Michael Phillips)

Mahogany, the ante-post favourite for the 1000 Guineas, begins her three-year-old career at Newbury today in the Fred Darling Stakes, which has been sponsored again by Shaik-Makroum Al Makroum's Gainsborough.

Reports about Mahogany's well-being and prowess on the gallops have continued to pour from Upper Lambourn where she is trained by Charlie Nelson.

"We're all very excited about her prospects. The very confident she could be a real champion filly."

Those were Nelson's own words when he was interviewed by *Timeform* recently and he was not much more confident than that. He really has put his head on the block.

However, today's race is not the Guineas. It is a classic trial for seven furlongs and 100 yards on the round course at Newbury and this could easily suit Shoot Clear, my selection, better.

Michael Stoute's filly won over five, six and seven furlongs as a two-

year-old and I expect her to be the sharper of the pair over this trip. Stoute, who won this trial three years ago with Marwell, has been delighted with her work at Newbury and she has the beating of Ian Balding's runner, Inspire, on Waterford Candelabra Stakes form at Goodwood last summer.

Henry's powerful West Isleley stable swings into action today with fancied runners in the two divisions of the Spring Maiden Stakes. He could easily win both with Rough Stones (2.30) and Longboat (3.0).

Rough Stones, who is owned by the Queen, looks to have the easier task in the first division because Kinski, a very promising Nijinsky colt, has been drawn against Longboat in the second division along with Height of Success and Spicy Story, who also shaped very nicely last year.

However, Longboat's effort at Newmarket against Alphasatim, who subsequently won the William Hill Futurity at Doncaster, is far

and away superior to anything so far achieved by any of this afternoon's rivals. Being a member of the renowned Felucca female family, which was well for so long, Longboat should be in his element over this distance, even though he is by Welsh Pageant, who was basically a miler. Stamina is the Felucca's strong card.

Henry Cecil also sends out his first runner of the season and Van Dyke Brown looks the answer to Van Dyke Brown at the Thirsk. Van Dyke Brown was an easy winner at Yarmouth last September before succumbing to the challenge of that promising but ill-fated colt, Ashgar. Rushmore looks a sporting bet to win the Scottish Champion Hurdle at Ayr. My selection was pipped by Daburri in the Imperial Cup at Doncaster last month and is not penalized for winning at Ascot last week.

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NEWBURY

(BBC)

(Television: (BBC 1) 2.30, 3.0, 3.30)

GOING: good

Draw: no advantage

Tote double: 3.0, 4.0. Treble: 2.30, 3.0, 4.0

2.0 BECKHAMPTON MAIDEN STAKES (2-y-o: colts and geldings: £1,839: 5f) (12 runners)

101 ABUTAMA (Abdulla Al-Yashin) S Matthews 9-0 B Jago 7
102 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7
103 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7
104 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7
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NEWBURY

(BBC)

(Television: (BBC 1) 2.30, 3.0, 3.30)

GOING: good

Draw: no advantage

Tote double: 3.0, 4.0. Treble: 2.30, 3.0, 4.0

2.0 BECKHAMPTON MAIDEN STAKES (2-y-o: colts and geldings: £1,839: 5f) (12 runners)

101 ABUTAMA (Abdulla Al-Yashin) S Matthews 9-0 B Jago 7
102 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7
103 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7
104 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7
105 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7
106 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7
107 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7
108 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7
109 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7
110 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7
111 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7
112 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7

113 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7

114 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7

115 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7

116 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7

117 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7

118 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7

119 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7

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125 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7

126 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7

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128 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7

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131 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7

132 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7

133 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7

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144 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7

145 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7

146 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7

147 DANCER'S SHADOW (M Channon) J Tabor 9-0 P Eddy 7

مركز أمن الأهل

Today's television and radio programmes

CHOICE

Radio 2

5 am Colin Berry, 5.30 Ray Moore, 6 am David Hamilton, 11 and 8.31 Racing, 12.00 Jimmy Young, 12.00 pm Steve Wright, 1 and 2.02, 3.02 Sport, 3.00 News from Newbury (Gainsborough and Fred Darling Steaks), 3.30 Music The Way, 4.00 Paul Burnett, 4.02, 5.02 Sport, 5.00 John Dunn, 11 and 6.02 Sport, 6.45 Sport, 7.30 Friday Night is Live! Night from St David's Hall, Cardiff, with The Cory Band and BBC Concert Orchestra. The singers: Cynthia Alexander, Joan Savages, Neil Murray and

Radio 1

1 am Mark Page, 7.00 Mike Reid,
8 am Simon Bates, 11.30 Gary Davies,
12 noon Johnnie Walker, 1.30
4.30 Select-a-Disc, 5.30
Weekend, 5.45 Roundtable, 7.00 Andy
Kibble, 8.00 The Friday Show
with Tommy Vance (stereo from
CD), VHF Reduces 1 and 2: 4.00 am
to 6.00 am, 9.00 pm With Radio 1,
10-4.00 With Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE

Newsworld, 6.30 Pageant of the Past, 7.00
News, 7.08 Twenty-Four Hours, 7.50
Dr. Maryn's 10.15, 7.45 Marches
Programme, 8.00 World News, 8.08
Actions, 8.15 The World of Song, 8.50 A
Life in a Monastery, 9.00 World News, 9.08
of the British Press, 9.15 The World
Today, 9.20 9.30 9.40 9.50 10.00
Albums Time, 10.15 Marching Navy
Programme, 11.00 World News, 11.08 News
at Ten, 11.20 11.30 in the Nighttime, 11.50
Newsworld, 11.30 Meridian, 12.00 Radio

4.85 Commentary, 4.15 Science
 4.85 World News, 8.95 Twenty-Four
 11.85 The New York Times, 4.75
 10.95 The Back Family, 9.45 The
 News, 10.00 World News, 10.00 The World
 10.00 The World, 10.00 The World
 10.00 Reflections, 10.00 Sports
 10.00 The World, 10.00 The World
 11.15 From the Weeklies, 11.15
 11.15 News, 12.00 World News, 12.00
 11.15 The World, 11.15 The World
 About Brown, 1.15 Outlook, 1.45
 Record Review, 2.00 World News,
 2.00 The World, 2.00 The World
 2.35 News and Politics, 3.00 World
 3.95 News About Britain, 3.15 The
 World, 3.15 The World, 3.15 The
 Financial News, 4.55 Reflections, 5.00
 5.00 The World, 5.00 The World
 5.00 The World, 5.00 The World
 5.45 The World, 5.45 The World
 Today.

All times in GMT

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN
 *Starc, *Black and white, (P) Repeat

W As London except: 10.25 Space
 19.00, 11.15 European For
 11.15, 11.25 News, 11.50-12.00 The

S As London expert: starts 9:25-9:30 Farming Brief, 10:28 Farming Monitor, 10:30-10:45 The Little Rascals, 1:20-1:30 TVS vs. 2:00 Falcon Crest, 3:00-3:30 In Living Memory, 5:15-5:45 Take the Lead, 6:00-6:30 The Good Life, 7:00-7:30 Friday Sportsweek, 8:00 The Fall 8:30-8:40 The Zodiac Game, 10:30 Start, 11:00 Film: Taste the Blood of Sirens (Christina Lahti), 12:40 Company, Closedown.

AMERICAN As London expert: starts 9:25-9:30 Farming Brief, 10:28 Farming Monitor, 10:30-10:45 The Little Rascals, 1:20-1:30 TVS vs. 2:00 Falcon Crest, 3:00-3:30 In Living Memory, 5:15-5:45 Take the Lead, 6:00-6:30 The Good Life, 7:00-7:30 Friday Sportsweek, 8:00 The Fall 8:30-8:40 The Zodiac Game, 10:30 Start, 11:00 Film: Taste the Blood of Sirens (Christina Lahti), 12:40 Company, Closedown.

NEWS starts 9.25-9.30 North
News. 10.25 Cities (Rome). 11.20
by the Viking. 11.45-12.00 Larry the
1.20-1.30 The Big Game. 1.30-1.45
Karrond. 2.00-3.30 Film: Genevieve
Keneath More. 5.15-5.45 Different
Kies. 6.00 North East News. 6.02
Zodiac Game. 6.30 Northern Life.
The Fat Guy. 7.00-7.15 The Evening
Review. 10.32 Jorvic-Viking's Return.
10 Films: The Uncanny (Peter
Peggy) followed by It Lives Again
(Geric Forrest). 12.40 Three's
Company.

MARKSHIRE As London except:
starts 9.25-9.30
North. 10.25 Just a Matter of
Concentration. 10.50 European Folk
11.00 Tarzan. 11.58-12.00
News. 1.20-1.30 Calendar News.
1.30-1.45 Film: Suspense (John
Peggy). 5.15-5.45 The Zodiac Game.

Calendar. 7.00 The Fall Guy. 8.00-
In Loving Memory. 10.30 Jorvik -
Vikings Return. 11.00 Rugby
Jue. 11.55 Mannix. 12.50
edown.

Entertainments

[illegible]
